Izumi Tsubaki

3

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN

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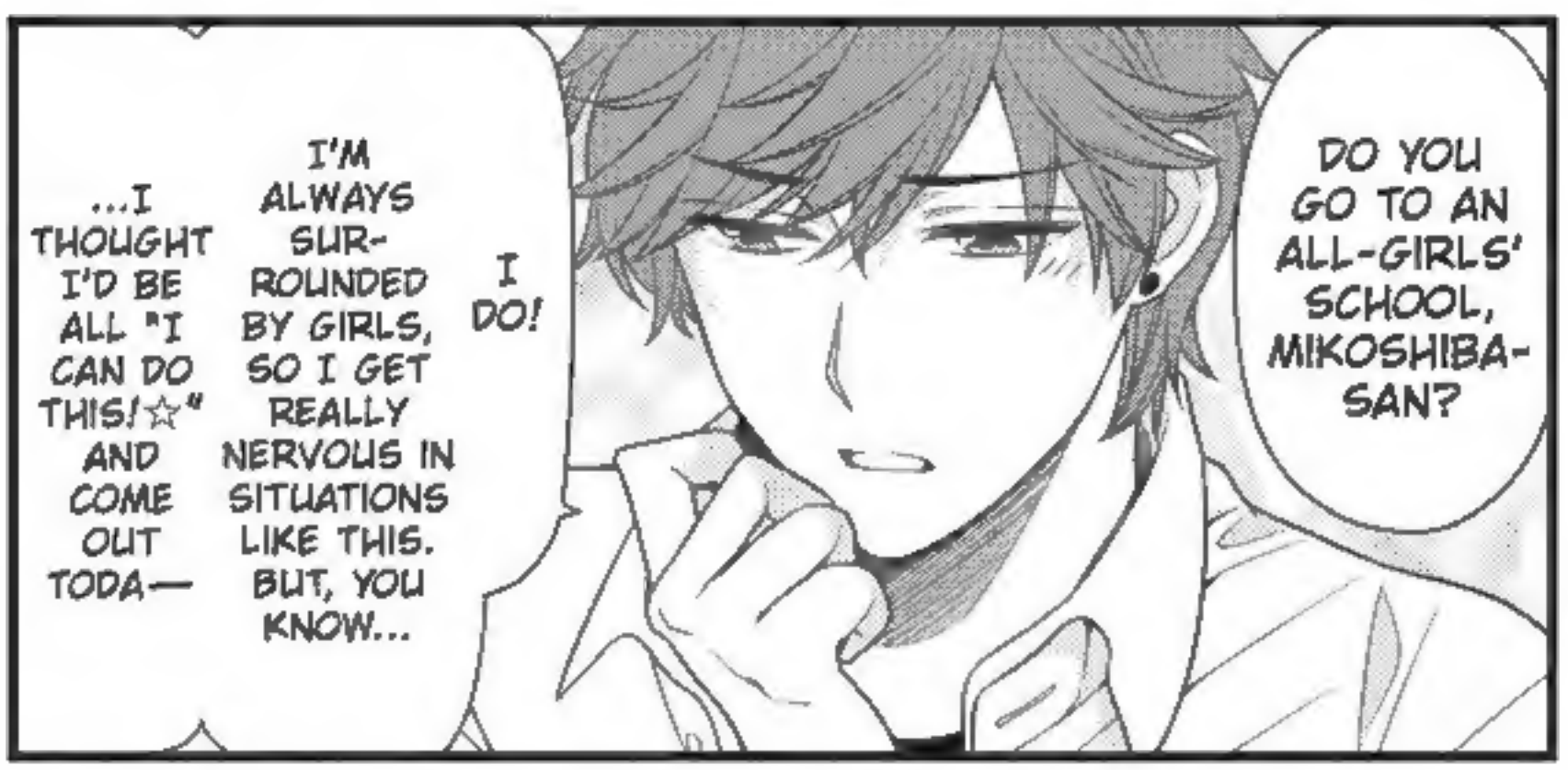
[ISSUE 21]

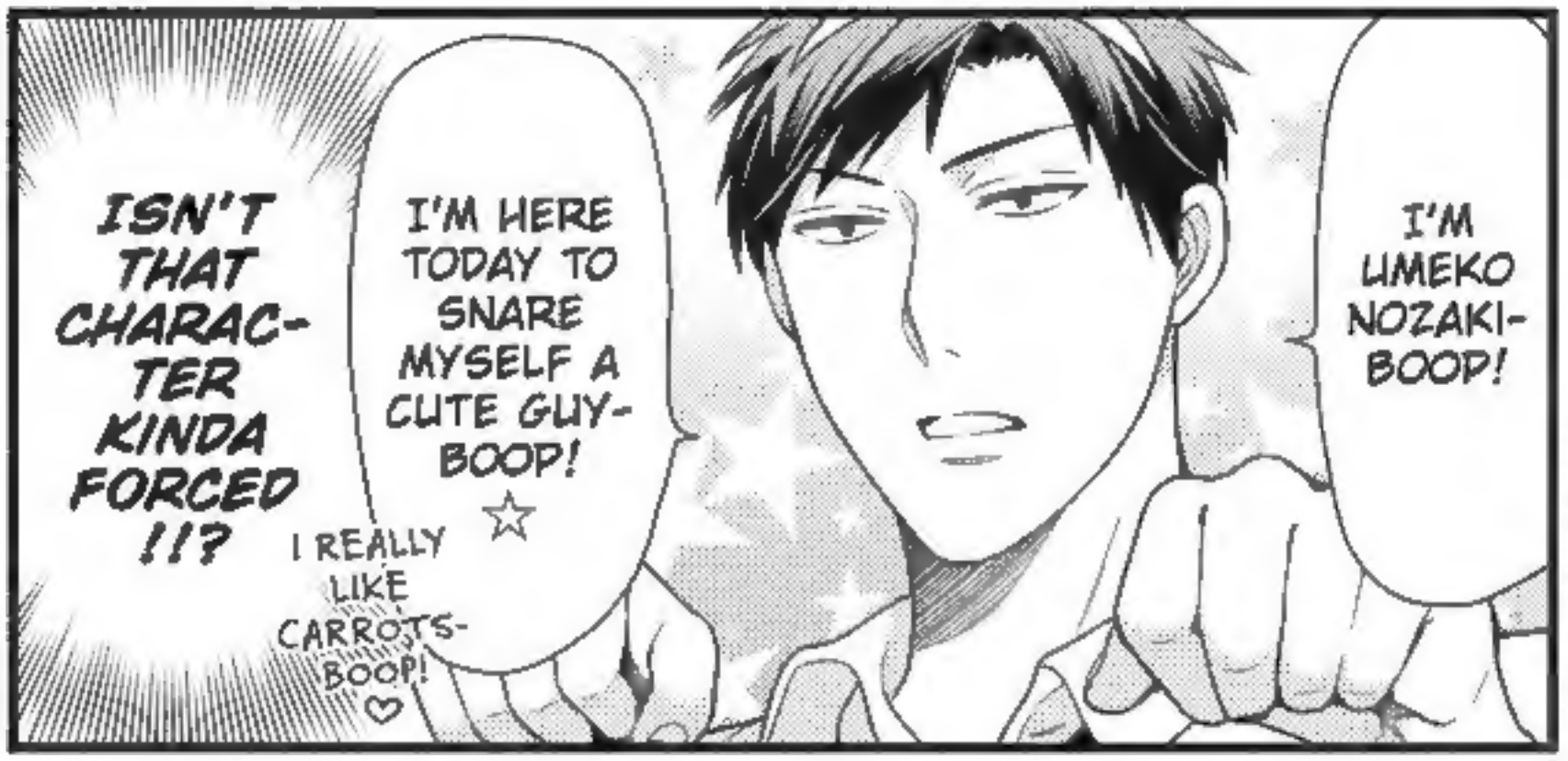
OH!
AND THEY SAID TO BRING GOOD-LOOKING GUYS WITH US TOO...
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE GROUP DATE THIS WEEKEND?
C'MON!
THIS KINDA THING'S YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT!? YOU LADY-KILLER!!
WHY ME HRN? ...?
WANNA COME ON A GROUP DATE WITH US!?
MIKO-SHIBA !!!
It'll be too late... for regrets, you know?
If I go, every last woman there will end up falling victim to my spell...
.....You sure should be saying that?
I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN ON A GROUP DATE BEFORE...
...HAVE TO GO AND SAY ALL THAT STUFF...?
WHY'D I...

NOZAKI ...!!!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU ...!!!
JIIIN (MOVED)
THAT WILL MAKE THE REAL THING EASIER.
LET'S RE-HEARSE.
WELL, IT'S A DONE DEAL NOW.

OH!
I'M MIKO-SHIBA.
HI.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
OKAY, THEN.
HELLO, I'M NOZAKI.


...I THOUGHT I'D BE ALL "I CAN DO THIS!☆" AND COME OUT TODA—
I'M ALWAYS SUR-ROUNDED BY GIRLS, SO I GET REALLY NERVOUS IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS. BUT, YOU KNOW...
I DO!
DO YOU GO TO AN ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL, MIKOSHIBA-SAN?

AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN, MAN!
WELL... I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED IT IF THEY WERE MISSING SOMEONE FROM THE GIRLS' SIDE...
WHY AM I PLAYING THE GIRL?



*IN THE ORIGINAL, NOZAKI ADDS -PYON TO THE ENDS OF UMEKO'S SENTENCES. THIS IS BOTH A CUTESY VERBAL TIC THAT WAS POPULAR IN 1980s JAPAN AND AN ONOMATOPOEIC WORD ASSOCIATED WITH BUNNIES AND HOPPING.

OH, SAKURA.
HI—
WHOA!
WHAT THE HELL !!?

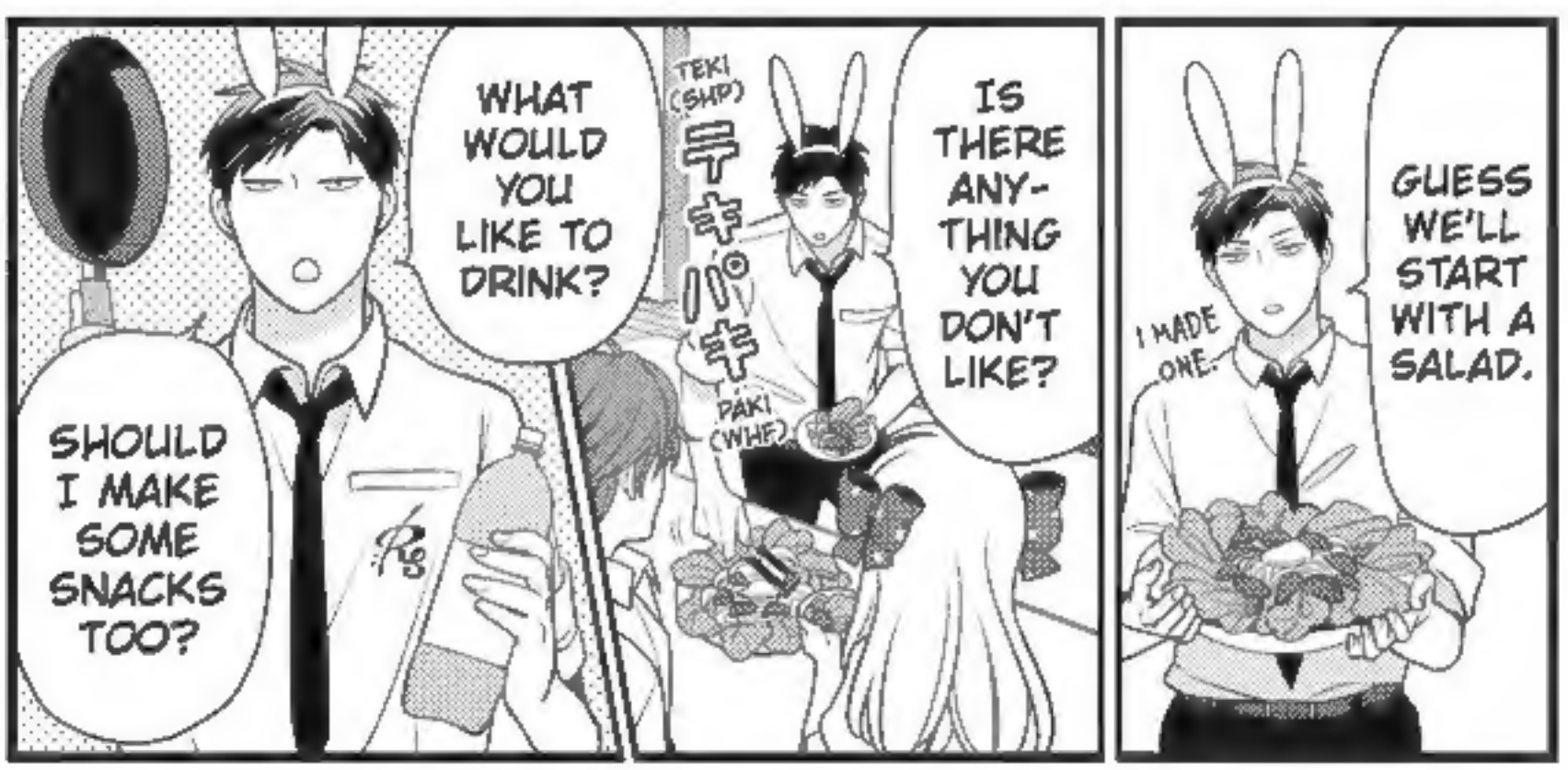
WAIT!
BEFORE THAT... WHAT ARE YOU TWO EVEN DOING ...!!?
?
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS ...
YOUR BUDDIES!!?
HUH !?
PERFECT TIMING.
YOU CAN COME BE ONE OF MY BUDDIES.

OH... BUT I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS SCENE BEFORE ...
A CREEPY BUNNY POURING MIKORIN A DRINK...
OBVIOUS ...?

THIS ISN'T SOME SHADY BAR, Y'KNOW !!!
YOU AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE TILL YOU PAY UP!
THAT'LL BE ¥300,000 IN TOTAL.
DAN (THUD)

I'M NO MATCH FOR A REAL GIRL.
HUH!?
YEAH.
BUT I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
YOU SCARED ME!
OHHH!
YOU'RE PRAC-TICING FOR A GROUP DATE ...!!

...A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF MY FEMININE SIDE TO NOZAKI-KUN...!!!?
COULD THIS BE...


SHOULD I MAKE SOME SNACKS TOO?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?
TEKI (SHIP)
PAKI (WHF)
IS THERE ANY-THING YOU DON'T LIKE?
I MADE ONE.
GUESS WE'LL START WITH A SALAD.

...THE GIRL POWER IS STRONG IN YOU ...!!!
UMEKO ...

LET'S HIT THE BATH-
SAKU-RA.
I'M MIKO-SHIBA.
O-OKAY, LET'S START OVER...
GATA (CLATTER)
HUH !!?

THAT MIKOSHIBA GUY WAS BEET RED, YOU KNOW.
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST IMPRES-SION?
Y-YEAH ... I GUESS ...

I LIKE TO LISTEN TO MUSIC AND PLAY GAMES ON MY DAYS OFF.
GATA

DID YOU HEAR THAT!? HE'S THE ANTI-SOCIAL TYPE!
A TOTAL SHUT-IN!
HE'S A GAMER!
NO-ZAKI-KUN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMMENT ON EACH AND EVERY THING ABOUT HIM HERE IN THE BATHROOM, YOU KNOW.

THEN US GIRLS WILL KEEP OUR INTROS SHORT AND SWEET.
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY.
SO HOW LONG ARE WE GONNA TAKE INTRODUCING OURSELVES ANYWAY?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO GREEDY, UMEKO?
GU (CLENCH)
I'M PLANNING ON TAKING ONE OR TWO HOME WITH ME TONIGHT.
I'M UMEKO NOZAKI, AGE SEVENTEEN! I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR A GUY, ANY GUY.

-HUH!?
O—
OKAY !!
C'MON, SAKURA.
SHOW HER HOW IT'S DONE.

GET LOST, NOW !!!
DON'T EVER GO ON A GROUP DATE!!!
AND TO BE ENTIRELY HONEST, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYONE BUT HIM!!
HE'S MY AGE AND A BIT SPACEY, BUT HE'S STILL SUPER-HANDSOME!!
I'M CHIYO SAKURA. I'M SIXTEEN.
MY TYPE IS 6'3" WITH SHORT BLACK HAIR AND SHARP EYES.

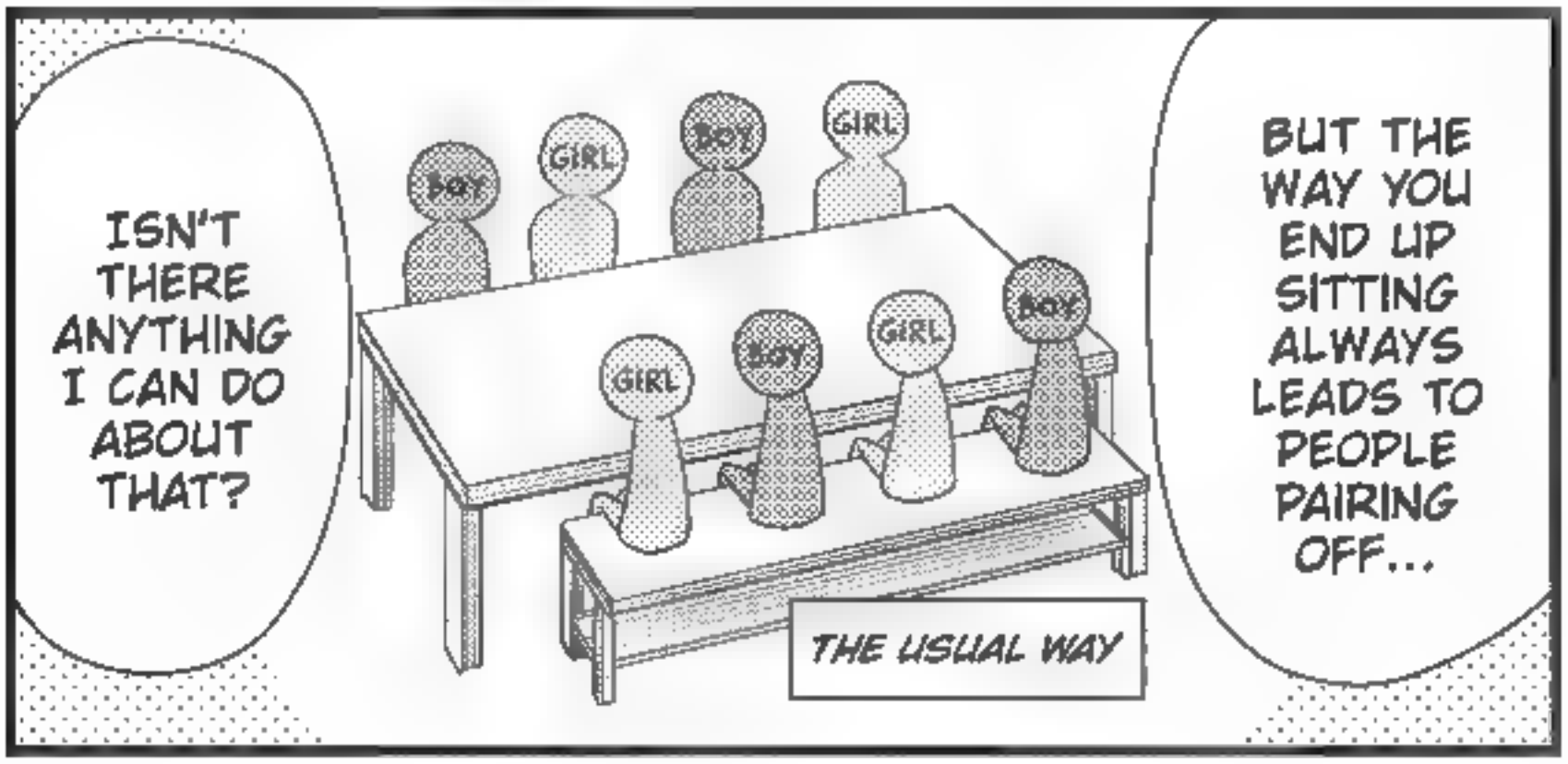
I KNOW ALL ABOUT GROUP DATES FROM DRAWING MANGA, OKAY?
AWW, C'MON.
ENOUGH ALREADY... IT WAS DUMB OF ME TO RELY ON YOU TWO IN THE FIRST PLACE...

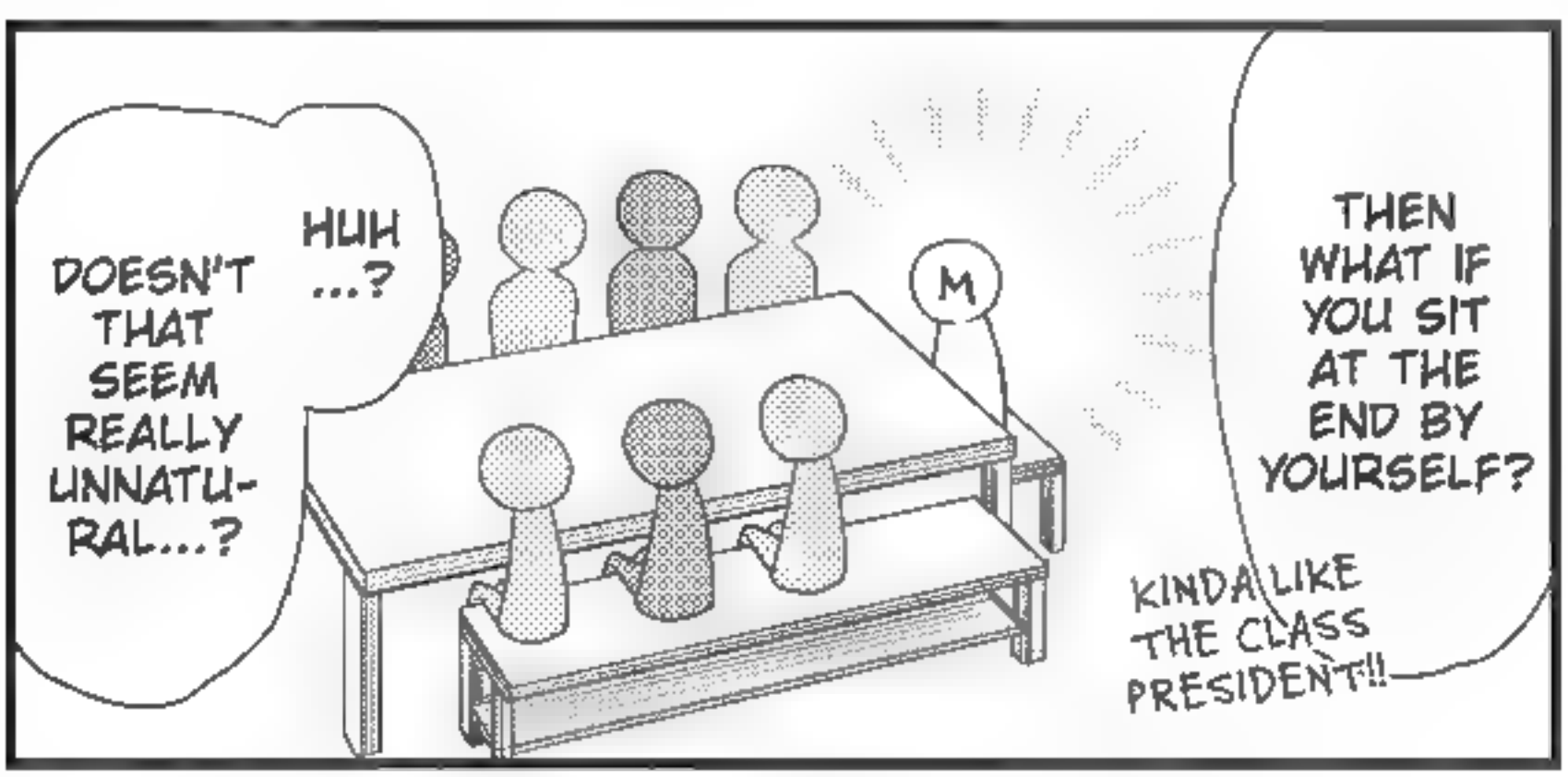
WHAT DO I DO...!? I'M SCARED, AND I CAN'T GET HIM OFF ME ...!!!
.....!
BIKU! (FLINCH)
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, JUST ME AND YOU!
GUI (GRAB)
FINE, I'M TAKING THIS ONE!
KYA!

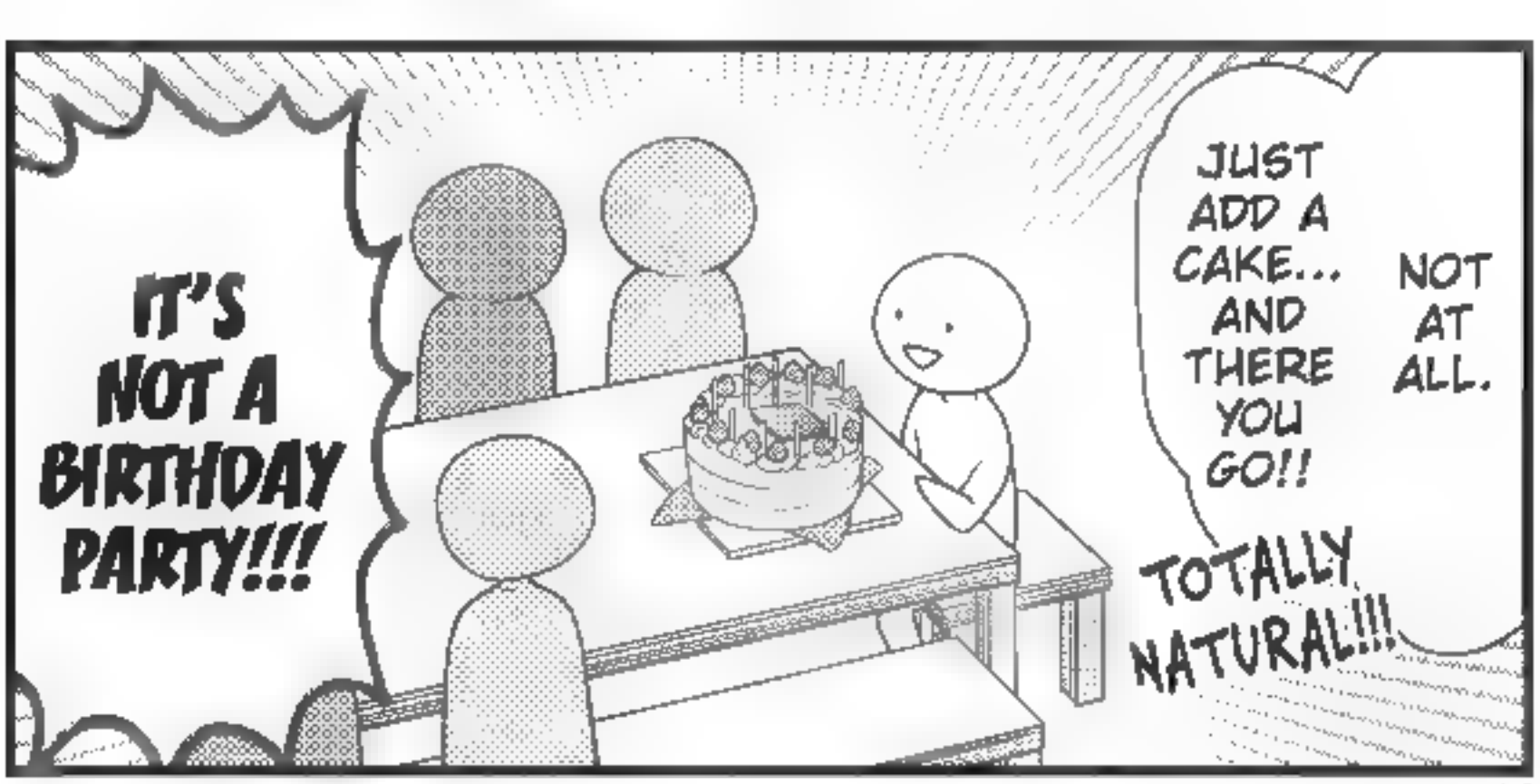
YOU STUPID WOMAN!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN JUST SAY NO!
OWWW!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
GIRIRI (PULL)

YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN ON A GROUP DATE, HAVE YOU?
EVERYONE DOES IT.
IN A NUTSHELL, GROUP DATES ARE ABOUT TAKING BY FORCE, BEING TAKEN BY FORCE, OR SNATCHING SOMEONE AWAY. OBVIOUSLY.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS







GOT IT, MIKO-SHIBA?
DON'T BORE THE GIRLS.
OKAY.
Y—
YEAH.
WE'VE GOT THIS!
OKAY, LET'S PRACTICE TALKING ONE-ON-ONE!
WHAT SORTS OF SHOWS DO YOU WA—
I PREFER INTERNET RADIO.
WHAT DO YOU DO ON YOUR DAYS OFF?
I DON'T HAVE DAYS OFF.
I HAVEN'T LEFT THE HOUSE.
H-HAVE YOU GONE ANY-WHERE LATELY?
UH...
THAT NO-ZAKI-KUN, HE...
AND THEN WHAT DO YOU THINK HE SAID?
OH ...?
ISN'T THAT N!—
AND IT WAS SOOO GOOD!!
NOZAKI-KUN MADE ME DESSERT THE OTHER DAY!
HEY, GUESS WHAT, MIKO-RIN!!?
LATE-LY—
...DON'T EVER GO ON A GROUP DATE.
YOU'LL JUST BE A PAIN IN THE BUTT.
YOU TWO...

THE BATH-ROOM AGAIN !?
BUCHI (SNAP)
ANY-WAY...
C'MON, SAKURA!
...TALK TIME IS OVER.
GATA (CLATTER)

SCREW THAT !!!
SORRY, MIKORIN ...!!
S—
ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU TWO ...!!!
I CAN'T JUST SHUT UP AND TAKE THIS!
DAN (BAM)

LET ME GET IN ON IT TOO!!!
YOU'RE LEAVING ME OUT OF EVERY-THING!!!

THE GROUP DATE TURNED INTO A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT.
...HAVE TO HAVE THIS CONVER-SATION IN HERE ...?
HEY, DO WE...
OMIGOSH!
WE SHOULD GO HAVE SOME SOON.
SO, YOU KNOW, THE CAKE THERE WAS SOOOO GOOD!

I CAME IN MIKOSHIBA'S PLACE!
HEYA!

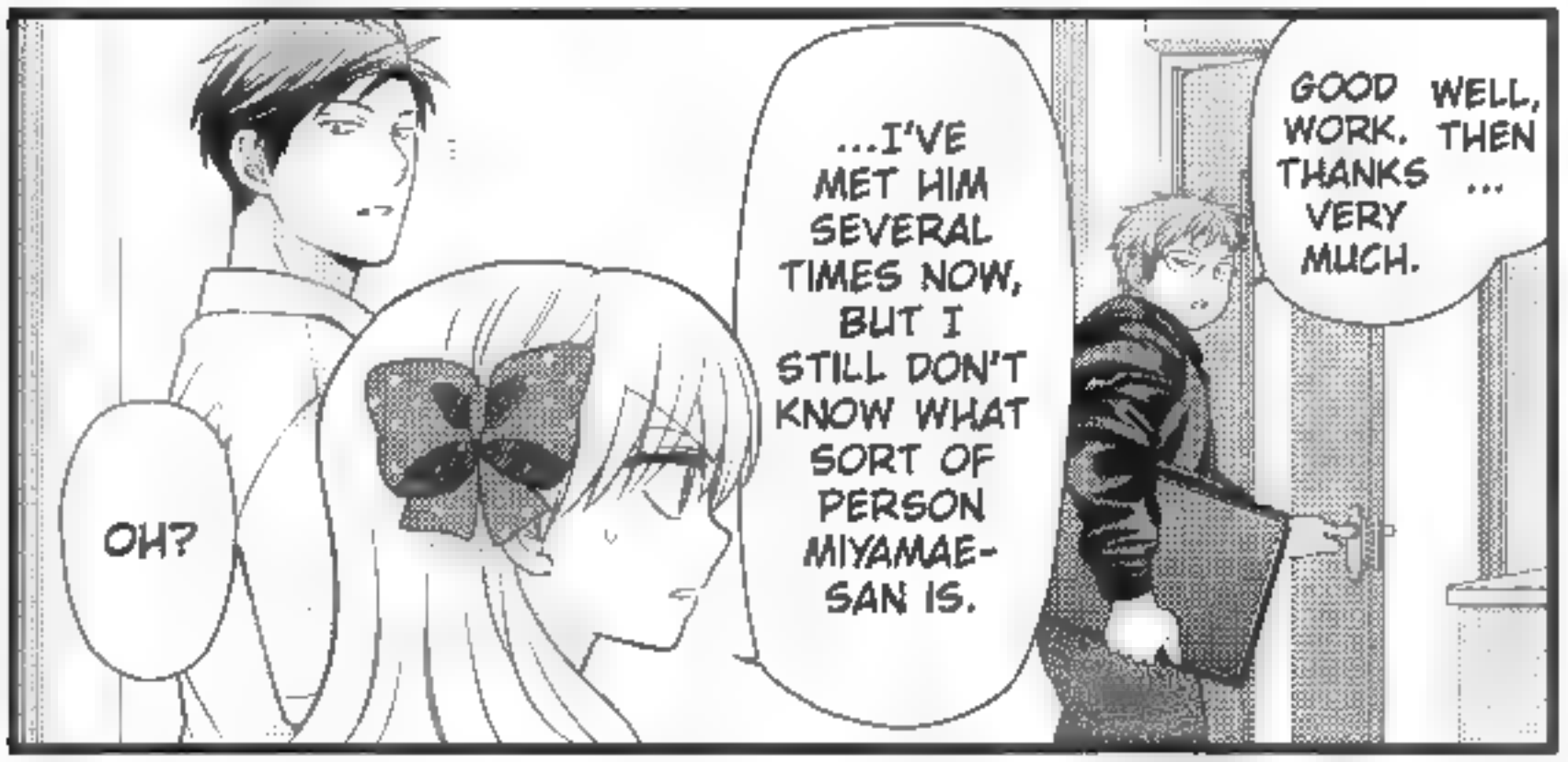
WELL, MIKOSHIBA BEGGED ME, SOOO...
YOU SURE?
BUT YOU ALREADY TURNED US DOWN!!
KASHI-MA!!

NOW I FEEL BAD FOR BUGGING HIM TO COME ALONG...
MAYBE HE'S NOT A FAN OF GROUP DATES OR SOMETHING ...?

SO HE'S ONLY INTO IT WHEN HE HAS THEM ALL TO HIMSELF !!!?
NAH. "I'M SURE I COULD FIT RIGHT IN IF IT'S JUST GIRLS...!!" IS WHAT HE SAID...

BUT STILL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, KASHIMA.
OH YEAH?
YOU BET.
SO NOW WE'RE THREE GUYS AND FIVE GIRLS!
YOU'RE A GIRL.
LESS COMPETITION IS A GOOD THING.

[ISSUE 22]


OH?
...I'VE MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES NOW, BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF PERSON MIYAMAE-SAN IS.
GOOD WORK. THANKS VERY MUCH.
WELL, THEN ...
I CAN'T TELL WHAT SORT OF STUFF HE'S INTO AT ALL.
BOOKS AND MOVIES.
TWENTY-SEVEN.
I HAVE NO CLUE HOW OLD HE IS...
YOU EVEN KNOW THAT? YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU?
OHH?
BY THE WAY, HE AND MAENO-SAN ARE THE SAME AGE, BUT I HEARD THAT HE FAILED HIS COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS TWICE, SO NOW HE'S THE JUNIOR.
HEH HEH.
YEAH, GUESS SO.
ISN'T THAT A BREACH OF PRIVACY?
OOOH!
...FROM MAENO-SAN...
SO, I HEARD...
I HEARD IT ALL FROM MIYAKO-SAN.

YEAH.
WELL, I HAVE MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION AFTER THIS.
...YOU'RE WEARING A SUIT TODAY?
DON'T SEE THAT VERY OFTEN.
HUH? MIYAMAE-SAN...

OH...
YOU THINK ...?
WE'RE ALWAYS WEARING CASUAL CLOTHES, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE JUST GONNA FEEL OUT OF PLACE IF YOU WEAR SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT USED TO.
REALLY, MIYA-MAE-KUN?

...HMM, LET'S SEE...
SO YOU'RE AT A PUBLISHING HOUSE? HOW'S THAT?
HEYYYY, MIYAMAE! LONG TIME NO SEE!

EVERY-ONE ELSE IS WEARING A SUIT. YOU DON'T FIT IN AT ALL LIKE THAT!
WHAT'S THIS, MIYA-MAE-KUN?
BISHI (SHARP)
MY CO-WORKER SUCKS.

I'M THE SENPAI BY TWO YEARS, THOUGH!
YEAH ...
OH YEAH, YOU TWO WORK AT THE SAME PLACE, RIGHT?
FOR REAL!?
WHAT SORT OF STUFF HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM HIM?
PFFT!
... WELL ... MORE OR LESS.
IN THE OFFICE, THAT IS...
HUH!? SO... ...YOU'RE THE KOUHAI, MIYAMAE!? DO YOU TALK ALL POLITE TO HIM!?
WHAT SHOULD I TITLE THIS ONE?
LOOK! IT'S A NEW FLAVOR!!
THIS GIRL JUST ISN'T MY TYPE!!
WHA—!?
... MAENO !!!
WAY TO GO...
WOOOOW !!!
BASHI
BASHI SMACK
I GOT TO UNDER-STAND A LITTLE OF HOW A MANGA-KA FEELS.

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS

SPEAKING OF YOUR WEIGHT, DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE SKINNY?
DID YOU RELAPSE?
YEAH.
IT'S NOT LIKE I EAT A WHOLE LOT OR ANYTHING.
I JUST GAIN WEIGHT AND THEN LOSE IT AGAIN...

THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

NOW
COL-LEGE

ISN'T IT 'COS OF MAENO !!?

I GOTTA SAY... THINGS SOUND ROUGH FOR YOU, MIYAMAE.
WHAT BROUGHT THAT UP ...?
WELL, WORKING IS PRETTY HARD...
...TO-TALLY TAKES ADVAN-TAGE OF HIS POSI-TION...
MY BOSS ...
AND I'M A SALESMAN. JUST WALKING AROUND DOESN'T GET RESULTS, YOU KNOW.
MY JOB'S TOUGH TOO.
OH YEAH, SAME HERE.
SEE, THIS MANGA-KA I'M WORKING WITH...
YOUR WORK SOUNDS PEACE-FUL. MUST BE NICE.
...KEEPS FIGHTING WITH ME OVER WHETHER WE SHOULD USE "TA-DAAA!" OR "DA-DA-DAAA!" AS A SOUND EFFECT WHEN A CHARACTER SHOWS UP...
KYARARAAAN (DA-DA-DAAA)

YUMENO-
SOMETHING...
HEY, DID YOU HEAR !?
HE'S THE EDITOR FOR A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!
ARE YOU FOR REAL !!!?
THE REAL THING!?
YOU THINK SHE EVEN WEARS A UNI-FORM !!!?

HUH? YUMENO-SENSEI?
WELL, YEAH, SENSEI WEARS A UNIFORM, AND I DO GO TO SENSEI'S PLACE TO GET THE MANU-SCRIPTS...
HUH !?
WELCOME!
THE MANUSCRIPT'S DONE!!
YOU GO TO HER PLACE!?

SENSEI ALWAYS COOKS AND IS ALWAYS ON ME TO EAT. MAYBE IT'S 'COS SENSEI LIVES ALONE.
YUP.
H—
HOME-MADE FOOD !?
TEE-HEE!
I'M SO LONELY BY MYSELF...
SHE TOTALLY HAS A THING FOR YOU!

I WONDER IF KEN-SAN PREFERS WESTERN STYLE FOOD...
WHAT A SHAME...
NAH.
I BET HE JUST CAN'T GET OVER THE THOUGHT OF HAVING A HIGH SCHOOL GUY COOK FOR HIM...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S GOOD!

HUH?
YUME-NO-SENSEI?
WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL MANGA-KA!!?
BATA (STOMP)
BATA
YOU WORKED TOGETHER TOO, RIGHT?
H-HEY!!!
BATA
BATA

MUKI (BLUFF)
GREAT, YOU MADE IT.
WELL, YUMENO-SENSEI'S BIG, AND TOUGH, AND PROBABLY PACKING ON THE POUNDS.

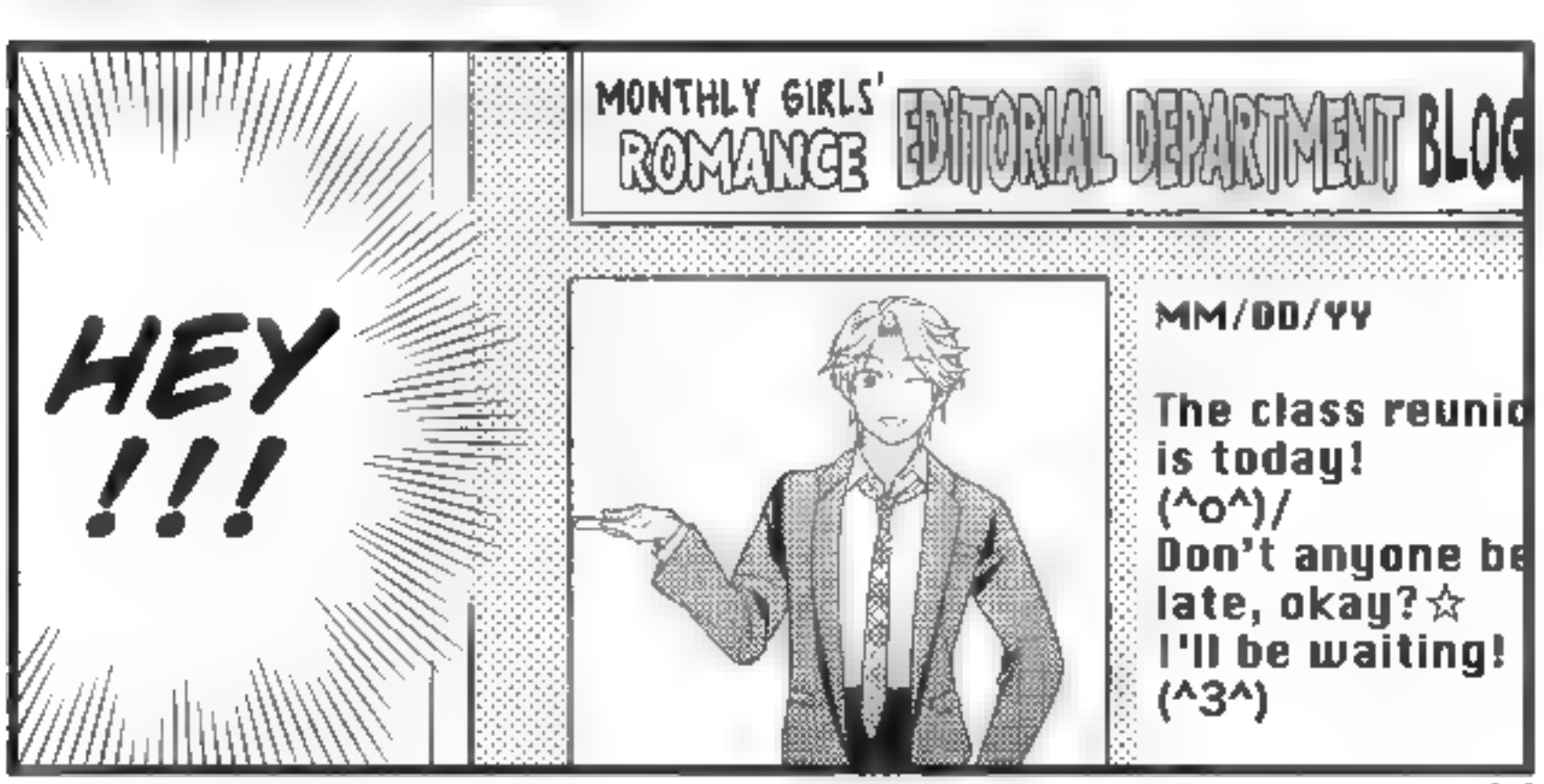
I WON'T LET HIM TRICK ME ...!!!
MAENO-SAN'S A PLAYER, AFTER ALL.
...IF HE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
IT WOULD BE BAD...
ALSO, SENSEI'S REALLY SHY AND WAS ALWAYS HANGING UP THE PHONE RIGHT AWAY. SHE'D NEVER LET ME INTO THE APARTMENT EITHER.

PON (PAT)
WHAT IS WITH YOU TWO?
.....
.....
PON

IT'S BEEN ABOUT TEN YEARS, RIGHT?
HEY, MAENO! LONG TIME NO SEE!
IT'S OH! MAENO-KUN!

OH, WELL ...
...IT'S PROBABLY 'COS THEY READ HIS BLOG.
IS HE REALLY THAT UNIQUE?
WHY DOES EVERYONE REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT MAENO LOOKS LIKE?

OH?
I'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT...
WANNA SEE?
HE'S REALLY GOOD AT UPDATING IT WITH PICTURES OF HIMSELF.


HEY !!!
MONTHLY GIRLS' ROMANCE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT BLOG
MM/DD/YY
The class reunio
is today!
(^o^)/
Don't anyone be
late, okay?☆
I'll be waiting!
(^3^)

DON'T ...
...BRING HIM OVER HERE!
GLITEEE (SLUUUMP)
KEN!
MAENO'S DRUNK!

NO WAY.
MANGA PEOPLE ALWAYS GO ON ABOUT MANGA STUFF WHEN THEY GET DRUNK. IT'S REALLY ANNOYING.
MANGA .... UHHH...
COME ON!
JUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR SENPAI, OKAY!?

I TELL YOU, MANGA'S ALL... YEAH.
THE PANEL LAYOUT 'N' STUFF'S, Y'KNOW... YEAH, LIKE...THIS. AND THE LINES'RE LIKE THAT.....
MANGA'S, UM...
...HM, YEAH, THAT.

...DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING TO GO ON ABOUT!!!
HE...
'SRIGHT ...

HE REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO

YOU'RE ... ... ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE.

'KAY!

WELL, I'M GONNA GO GET HIM A CAB.

I AAAM!

YOU SHOULD BE GRATE-FUL, YOU KNOW.

HE JUST LET THINGS SLIDE WHEN I TOTALLY WOULD'VE SNAPPED.

SO COOL-HEADED.

...I'LL LET MIYAMAE-KUN TAKE OVER MY PRECIOUS BLOG AS THANKS!

Editorial Department BLOG

Today I'm... kinda badass!!

...IF I EVER END UP GETTING TRANS-FERRED OUT OF THE EDITORIAL DEPART-MENT...

AND ...

SOME-ONE STOP HIM!!!

WAAAH!

MIYA-MAE SNAPPED !!!

WAAAH!

GASHAAAN GORAAASHD

Hello ...

I just need to confirm some lines of dialogue ...

HUH? KEN-SAN...

...ARE YOU TIRED OR SOME-THING?

OH...

I HAD MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION YESTERDAY, AND...

.....NO.

NEVER MIND.

NOZAKI-KUN, WHAT IS IT?

PI (BEEP)

.....

KEN-SAN...

.....

HE SAID HE HAD A CLASS REUNION YESTER-DAY!!

KYU (SQUEAK)

...TALKED ABOUT HIS PERSONAL LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!!!

OHHH ...

GOOD FOR YOU.

YOUR FACE...!!!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU!?
WELL, I WENT OUT DRINKING LAST NIGHT.
BORO BORO (RAGGED)
WH—
HI-YA!
I'M HERE TO PICK UP YOUR MANU-SCRIPT!
MIYAMAE-KUN SUDDENLY WENT ALL CRAZY.
IT WAS HOR-RIBLE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CUT BACK ON THE BOOZE...
.....
KEN-SAN... IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WENT INTO A DRUNKEN RAGE AND BEAT UP MAENO-SAN...?

[ISSUE 23]

I'VE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO DO A STORY ABOUT THE SIDE CHARACTERS.

Ken-san

How about those two going on a date?

BASA (THUMP)

KYA!

WHY DON'T YOU USE IT?

DOKI (BADUM)

DOKI

THE RAIN STORY I DREW BEFORE WENT OVER SURPRISINGLY WELL.

OH, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T COME UP WITH ANY STORIES OR IMAGINE THE TWO OF THEM ON A DATE. STILL...

BUT THE MODELS FOR THOSE TWO ARE WAKAMATSU AND SEO... I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT DEVELOPING THEIR RELATIONSHIP...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

CAN I SAY NO?

SEO-SENPAI GAVE ME MOVIE TICKETS.

NOZAKI-SENPAI.

...YOU SHOULD ABSOLUTELY GO.

AND THEN TELL ME HOW IT WENT.

I THINK...

BUT I GUESS RUNNING AWAY WHEN FACED WITH AN ENEMY IS PRETTY LAME, ISN'T IT...?
I THOUGHT NOZAKI-SENPAI WOULD STOP ME FOR SURE...
SENPAI KNOWS EVERYTHING.

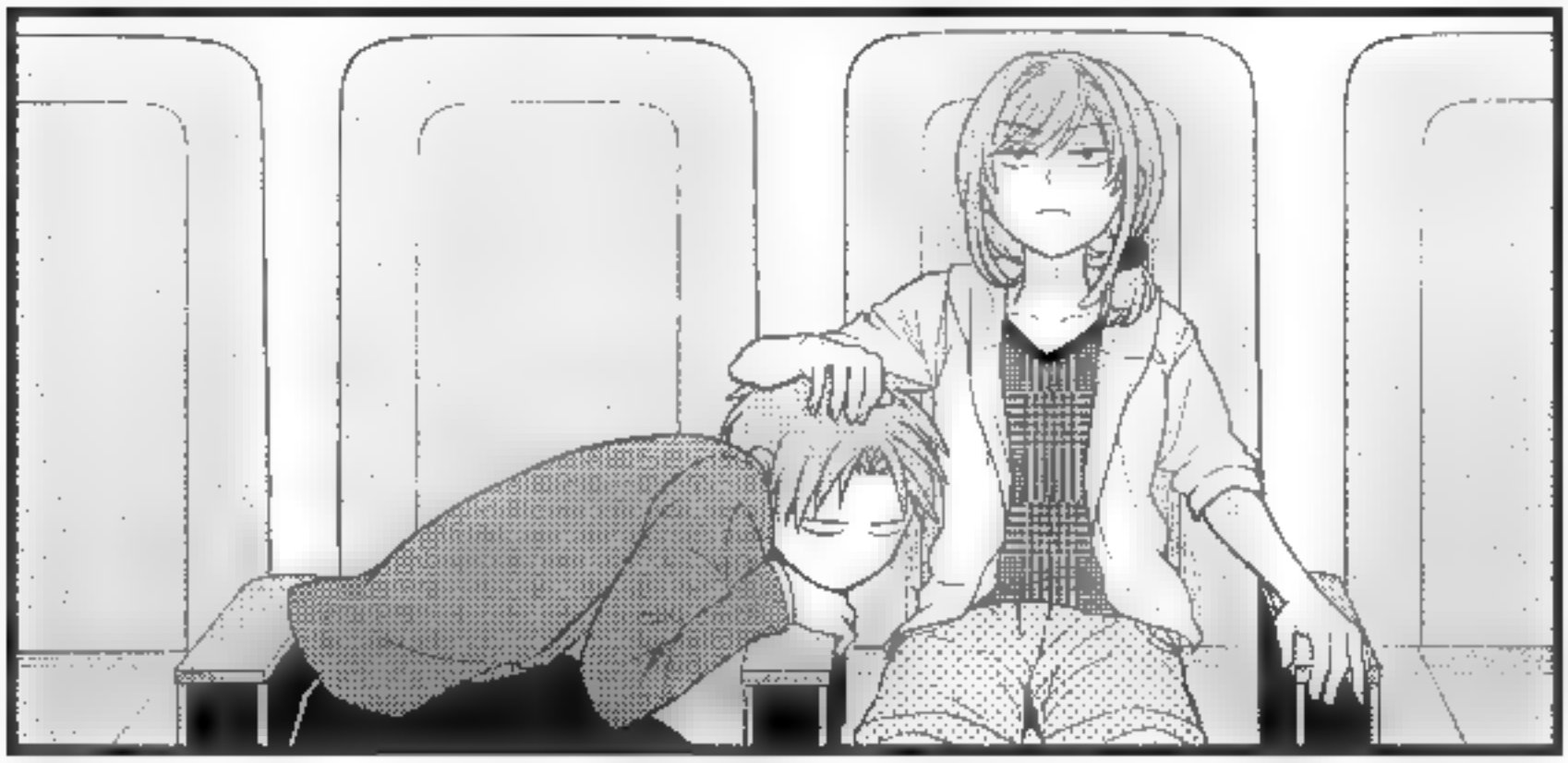
EVEN SO, HOW DO I MAKE IT SO I END UP ON TOP...?

IT'S LIKE I'M HERE TO MAKE HER SHINE!!!
I'M SO MAD...!!
THAT'S IT!!!
HOH HOH HOH HOH HOH!
YOU SEEM EVEN MORE PROVINCIAL WITHOUT YOUR UNIFORM!!
OH MY! WHAT IS WITH THAT PEASANT ATTIRE?!

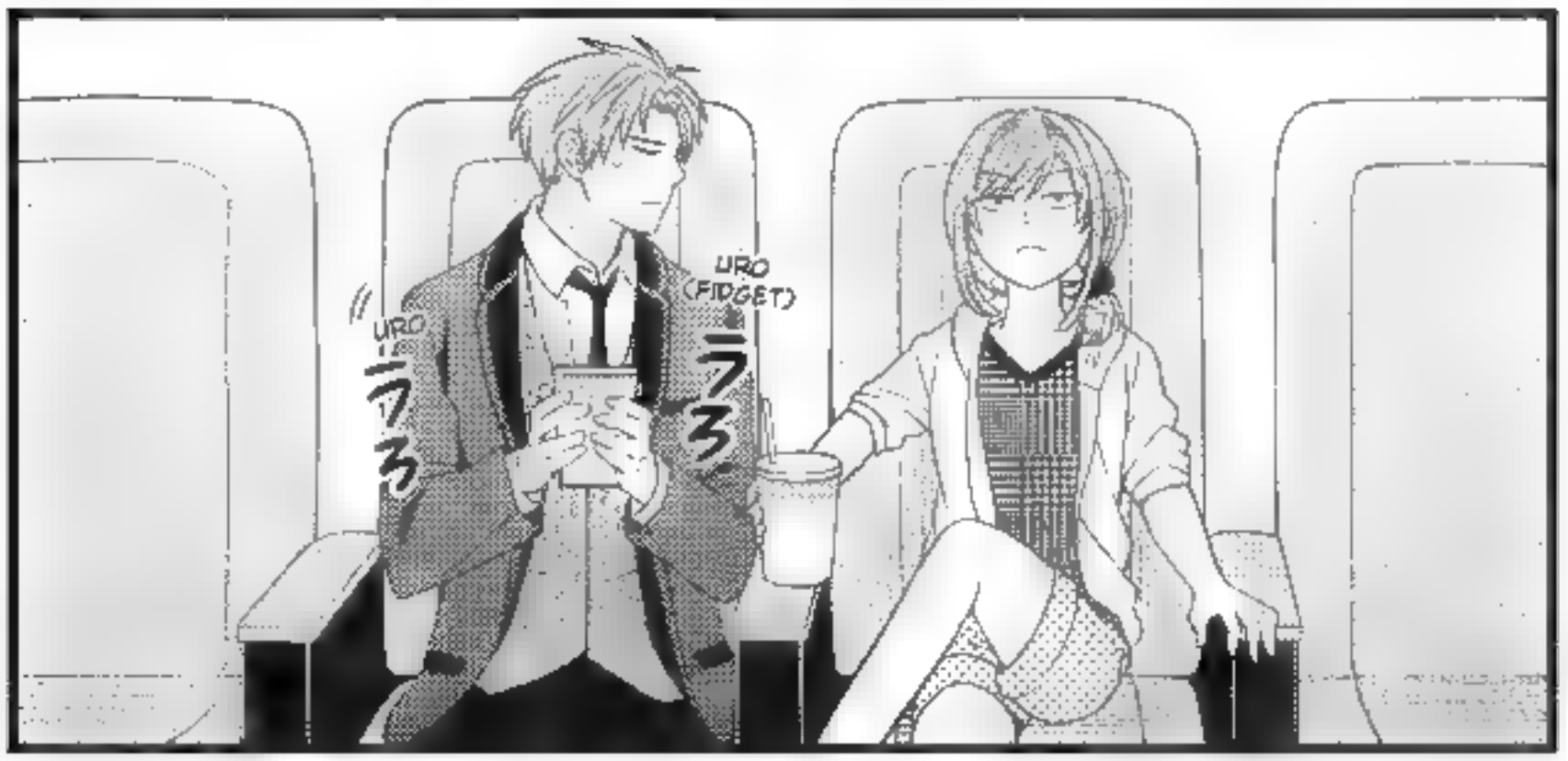
HUH!?
NO WAY ...!!!
WERE YOU THAT EXCITED ABOUT IT...?
YOU REALLY WENT ALL-OUT TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?
WHOA, WAKA.

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
OH YEAH?
LEFT OR RIGHT...?
THE MOVIE THEATER KINDA MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT WHICH ARMREST YOU SHOULD USE, DOESN'T IT?

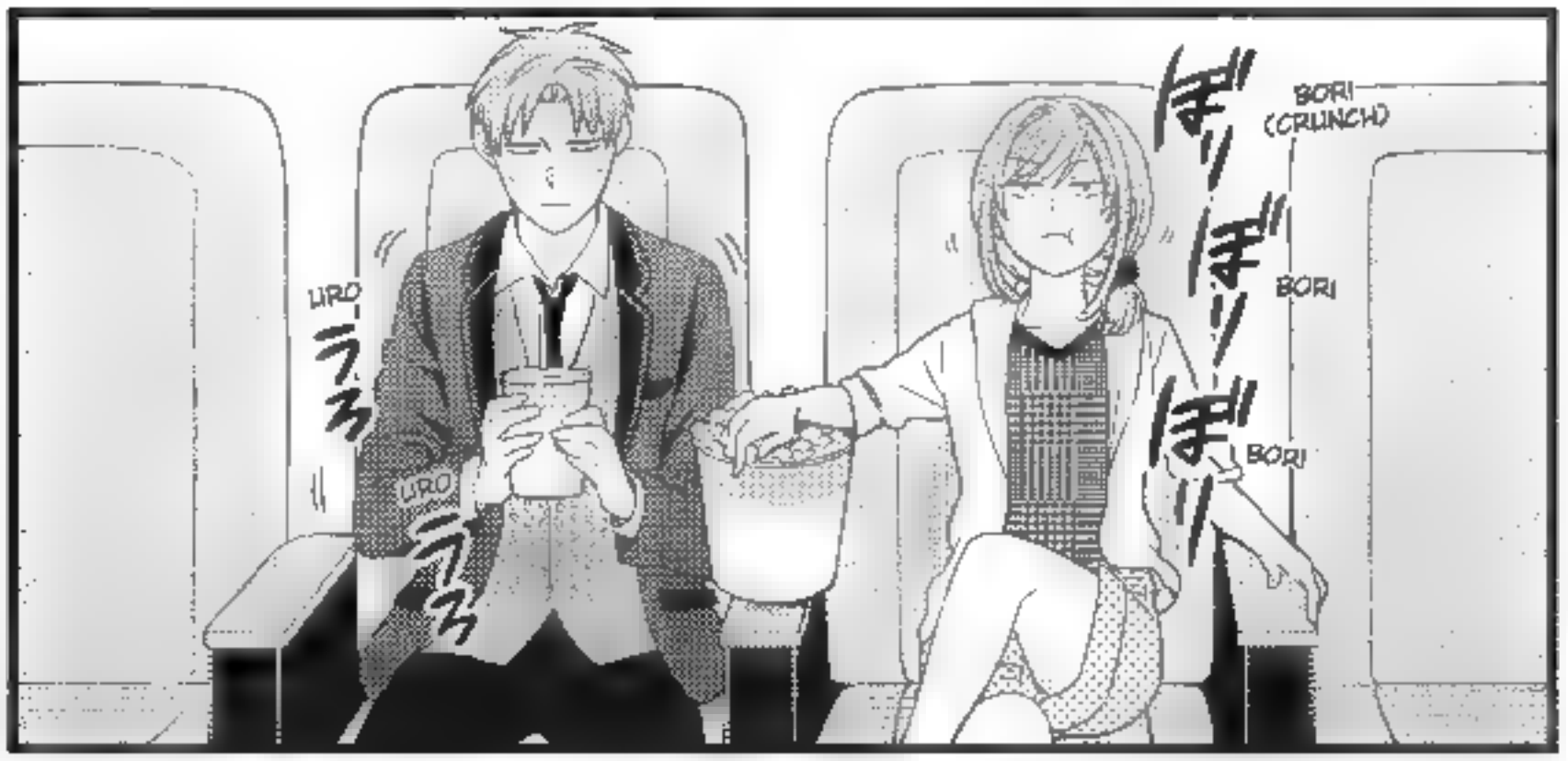
OH.
OKAY.
SORRY.
COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
GABA (GRAB)
ガシッ
THIS ONE'S MINE!!



I KNOW!
I'LL PUT MY DRINK ON IT TO STAKE MY CLAIM...!!


URO
URO (FIDGET)
URO

THIS TIME I ONLY BOUGHT ONE POPCORN!!
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOUGHT ONE FOR SENPAI TOO...


URO
URO
BORI (CRUNCH)
BORI
BORI

...IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO WORRY ABOUT THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU ONCE THE MOVIE STARTS...
WELL ...
UH, YEAH.
WAKU (EXCITED)
わくわく
WAKU!
I'M GLAD THERE'S NO ONE NEXT TO US!
OH! IT'S ABOUT TO START...
...WAKA.

No way ...!
Cathy !!!
GUSU (SNIFFLE)
す?...
You run! Leave me here ...!!
Wait ...!!!

DO (THUD)
NOOOO !!!
DO
DO
DO
DOSHA (CRUNCH)
GUSHA (SQUISH)
Waaah! Stop it!
ZUDOOON (THUNK)

HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLY BE THAT OFF BASE !!?
GERA (CACKLE)
GERA
GERA
HI HI HI HI

COULD SHE BE THE TYPE WHO SYMPATHIZES WITH THE BAD GUY?
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
HA!
It's your fault for trusting me!
UGH...
You... be-trayed me ...!?
...Or so we thought, but now there's a new enemy ...!!?
Waa-aaah !!!
...JUST LIKES IT WHEN SOMEONE GETS KILLED !!?
DON'T TELL ME SHE...

!!?
BIKU (STARTLE)
GON (THUMP)
FURA (WOBBLE)
FURA

HEY!
SEO-SEN-PAI!?
GUUU (ZZZZ)

WH-WHOOPS!!
KAKA (BLUSH)
I KIND OF WANT TO SEE THAT.
ACK!
IT'LL BE PRETTY EMBAR-RASSING FOR HER WHEN SHE WAKES UP LIKE THIS...
WAIT A MIN-UTE ...

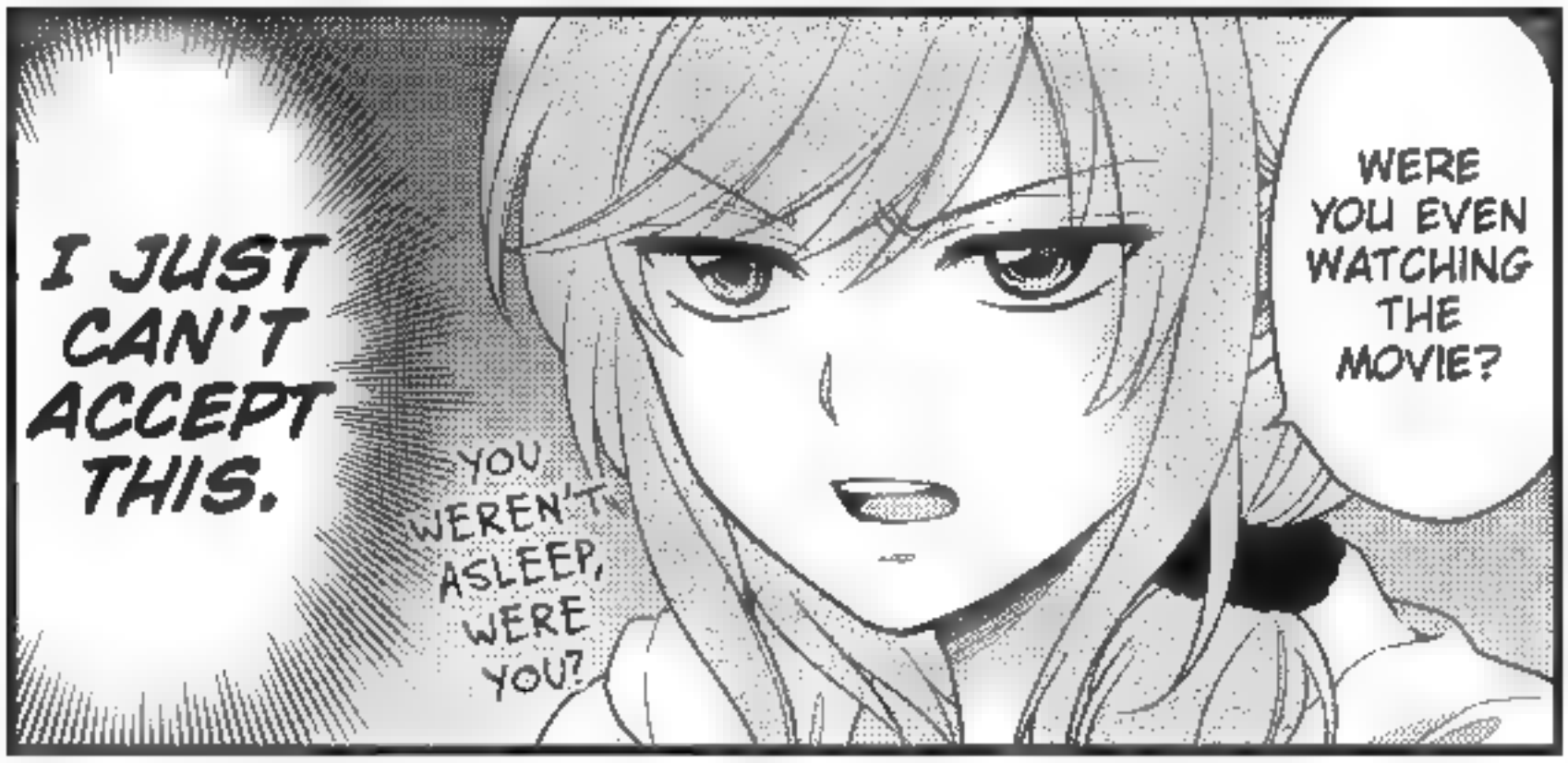
SHE STARTED MAKING HERSELF COMFORT-ABLE!!?
BORI
BORI (CRUNCH)
BORI

NO. I HAVE INSOMNIA...
HMM.
WOW. YOU'RE NOT EVEN A LITTLE TIRED?
IT DOESN'T JUST HIT YOU WHEN IT GETS DARK?
HEY, I'VE HEARD THIS MUSIC BEFORE.
HM- HM- HMMM...
GUUU
GAKU (SLUMP)

YES, IT WAS!
ESPECIALLY THAT LAST LINE FROM CATHY. IT WAS SO COOL...!!
AHHH!
THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!

THE HERO-INE.
?
THE OLD GUY WITH ALL THE CLOTHES ON?
CATHY? WHO WAS THAT AGAIN?

WAS THERE EVEN A "MONA-LUPPO" IN IT?
HUH ...?
I HOPE HE'LL BE ■ THE NEXT ONE TOO.
HE WAS TOTALLY THE STAR.
NEVER MIND THAT! THAT ALIEN, MONALUPPO, WAS SO AMAZING!!


I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
YOU WEREN'T ASLEEP, WERE YOU?
WERE YOU EVEN WATCHING THE MOVIE?

SENPAI... WE DID SEE THE SAME MOVIE, RIGHT...?
YEAH! GETTING TO TALK ABOUT THE MOVIE RIGHT AFTER SEEING IT IS PRETTY SWEET, ISN'T IT!?
HUH!?
WELL...
SURE, I'M FINE WITH IT...
HEY, LET'S TALK SOME MORE!
YOU'RE GOOD WITH THAT, RIGHT?
AND SQUELCH!
AND THEN IT WENT FLYING LIKE FWOOSH!
IT TOTALLY WENT SQUELCH!!!
AND THEN WHEN THAT THING WENT SQUOOSH!
WHAT A MESS THAT WAS!
JUST SHUT UP!!!
UGH, SEN-PAI!

I'LL INVITE SOMEONE ELSE NEXT TIME, OKAY?
WHAT? FINE, I GET IT.
UGGGGH...
KIRI (CLENCH)
KIRI
I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TODAY...

...SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IDEA...JUST DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME...
HUH ...!?

I'LL JUST INVITE TANAKA OR YAMAMURA INSTEAD OF YOU.
THOSE FIRST-YEAR BASKETBALL GUYS.
ACTUALLY, I HAVE THESE TICKETS FOR THE SCREAM AMUSEMENT PARK, BUT ALL OF MY GIRLFRIENDS SAID NO.
TICKET: SCREAM

ME!!! I'LL GO WITH YOU INSTEAD !!!
SO JUST STOP!!!
THEY'RE MY BEST CHOICES.
YEAH.
TWO TIMES THE THRILL.
AND YAMAMURA HAS A GIRL-FRIEND!!!
TANAKA GETS SICK EASILY !
WAIT !!!

THIS EPISODE'S RECAP

YORO (STAGGER)
よろ
I WENT TO THE SCREAM AMUSE-MENT PARK...
HE REALLY WENT!?
YORO
よろ
UGGGH...
CONQUER-ING THE ENTIRE THING TOOK SO LONG...
YOU GOT ON EVERY SINGLE RIDE!?
I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO THE ZOO NEXT.
動物園
ZOO TOUR OF TERROR!
恐怖ツアー
FEED THE LIONS!!!
WRAP A SNAKE AROUND YOUR NECK!!!
ライオンにエサやり!!!
首にヘビを巻こう!!!
YOU EVEN MADE MORE PLANS!?
YOU TWO ACTUALLY GET ALONG, DON'T YOU!!!?

[ISSUE 24]

THE FIRST STEP TO BACKGROUNDS

...VARIES FROM ARTIST TO ARTIST.

hallway

DOING A ROUGH SKETCH OF THE GENERAL AREA

EXPLAINING WITH WORDS

Full shot of the classroom

(so you can see the blackboard)

THE WAY A MANGA-KA INDICATES THE BACK-GROUND THEY WANT THEIR ASSISTANT TO DRAW...

LIKE PERSPECTIVE AND STUFF...?

SO DRAWING BACK-GROUNDS REALLY IS HARD?

NAH...

IT'S JUST THESE DIREC-TIONS.

HMM.

THIS IS TOUGH ...

Something that feels nice

What-ever works

Somewhere at school

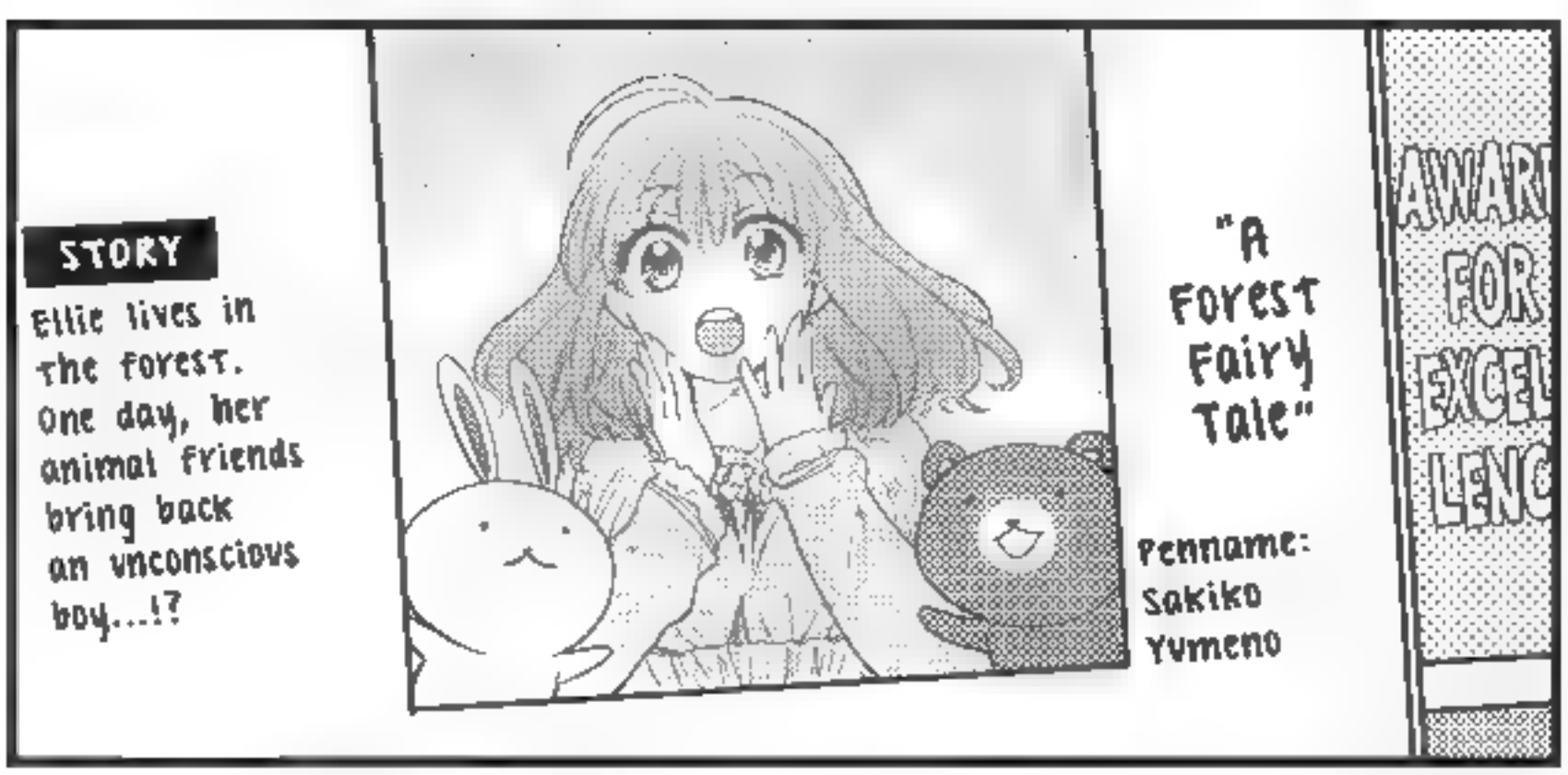
NOZAKI-KUN!!!

THERE'S A TEACHER HERE, SO MAYBE THE STAFF ROOM...? NO...BUT THERE ARE STUDENTS TOO, SO IT COULD BE THE HALLWAY...

THE ARTIST'S OPINION

MAKING IT SO THEY WOULDN'T FIND OUT THAT I COULDN'T DRAW BACK-GROUNDS WAS PRETTY ROUGH...
TRUE...
...HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO MAKE YOUR DEBUT LIKE THIS ...?
NO-ZAKI-KUN...

STORY
The mysterious boy she meets every night, only in her dreams... As they become closer, it bothers her even more— Just who are you anyway...?
"Boyfriend in the Dark"
Penname: Sakiko Yumeno
PROMISING NEW-COMER AWARD


STORY
Ellie lives in the forest. One day, her animal friends bring back an unconscious boy...!?
"A Forest Fairy Tale"
Penname: Sakiko Yumeno
AWARD FOR EXCEL-LENC

YOU WORKED HARD ON THE WRONG THING!!!
WELCOME TO THE SQUISHY WORLD!!
This place she got lost in... could it be a wonderland!?
A HEART-POUNDING DEBUT!

OHH? THEN TRY DRAWING ANOTHER CUP JUST LIKE IT BEHIND THAT ONE.

SEE? SEE?

BUT I CAN DRAW SOME BACK-GROUNDS TOO THESE DAYS!!

...DRAW IT LIKE THIS...

BET HE'LL...

SAME SIZE

BY THE WAY, THE CORRECT ANSWER IS THIS.

SAME OVAL SHAPE

I'M SURE OF IT...

...OR LIKE THIS.

SMALLER

THE OVAL SHAPE CHANGES.

AT LEAST MAKE AN EFFORT TO DRAW IT ON THE TABLE!

KYU (SKRITCH)

UMM...

HOW'S THIS?

ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?

KYU

KYU

IS THERE SOME-THING ELSE!?
HERE, TAKE A LOOK.
WELL, IT'S NOT GREAT, BUT LET'S JUST SAY THE BACK-GROUNDS ARE FINE LIKE THIS...

.....?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WEIRD...
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
MY RIGHT SHOULDER IS BURNING UP...!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
I'M SITTING NEXT TO SUZUKI-KUN...

LET'S COME HERE ALONE NEXT TIME.
SUZUKI-KUN...
GEEZ! DON'T TEASE ME!!
(GATAN (CLATTER))
WHOO! WHOO!
SAY "AH."
NO WAY...
HE'S DOING THAT HERE ...!?

...HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU CHANGE SEATS!?
YOU TWO...

HUH!?
BUT CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE STUFF LIKE THAT TO THE EDITOR...?
IT'S SUCH A PAIN TO FIX ALL OF THIS STUFF WHILE THE STORY'S STILL BEING PUT TOGETHER ...

YOU'RE BOTH TOTALLY USE-LESS!!!
?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
MAENO-SAN WOULD NEVER NOTICE SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

HE'D NOTICE THOSE THINGS FOR SURE!
KEN-SAN
OH!
BUT NOW KEN-SAN IS YOUR EDITOR!

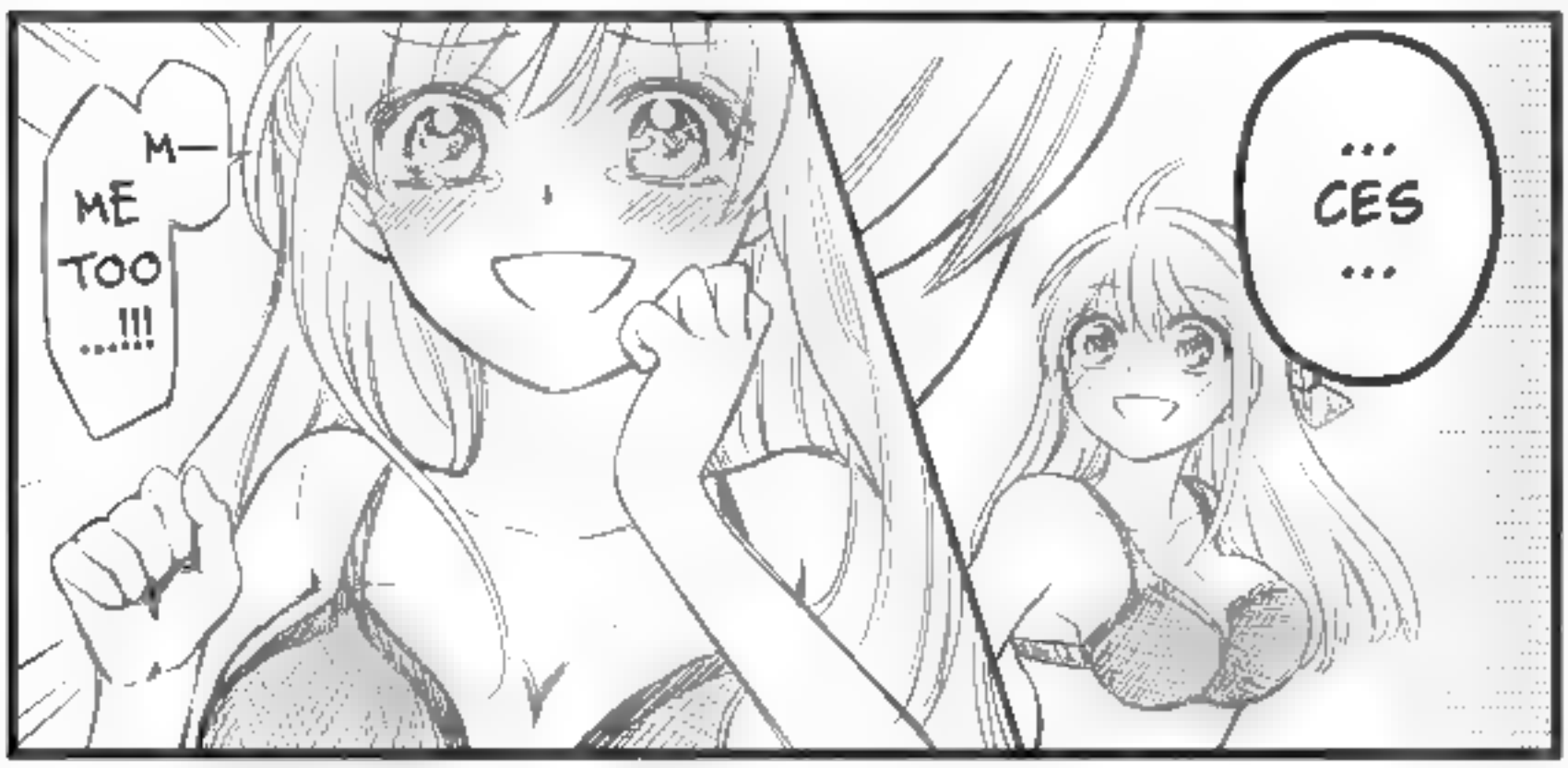
SHOW IT TO HIM !!!
A—
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I SHOW KEN-SAN A PATHETIC DRAFT LIKE THAT...!?

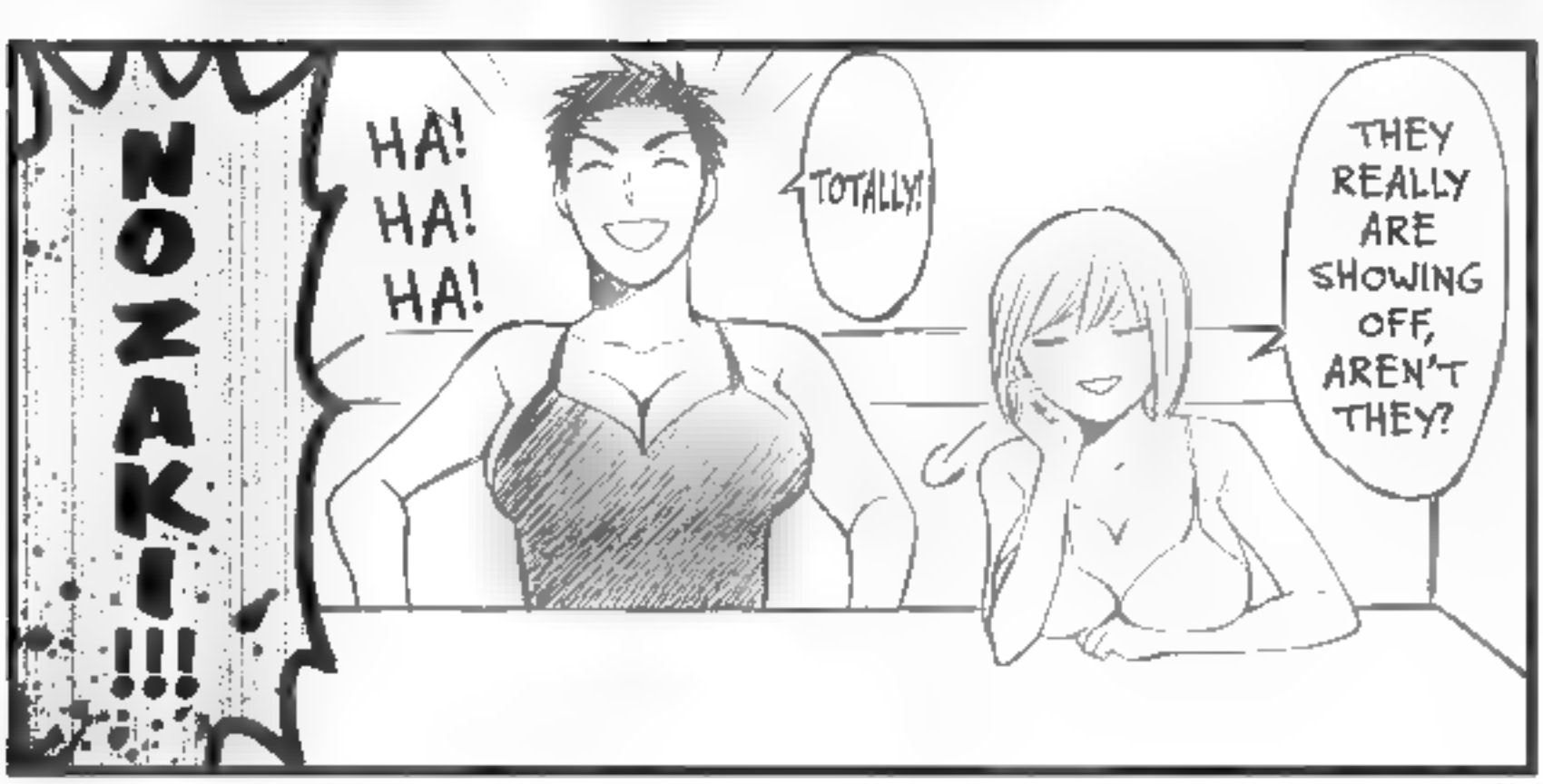
DUH!
IF I COULD DO THAT, I'D BE SOME-ONE'S ASSIS-TANT!
HOW CAN YOU! SAY THAT AS A PRO?
FRIEND
FRIEND
SUZUKI
MAMIKO
MAMIKO IS ON SUZUKI'S LEFT.
LIS-TEN UP.
TRY KEEPING THE SEATING ARRANGE-MENT IN MIND WHILE YOU DRAW, OKAY?
AND THIS IS SUZUKI.
THIS IS MAMIKO.
FINE.
THEN USE OBJECTS AND THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY.
EVEN HE OUGH—
YEP.
NOW HE CAN CHECK WHERE THEY ARE WHENEVER HE WANTS!
I GET IT!
U-UHH... THIS IS MAMIKO... AND THIS IS SUZUKI... SO...
YOU'RE HOPE-LESS.

THEN...
...HOW ABOUT DOLLS?
OH!
IT WOULD BE EASIER TO IMAGINE IT IF THEY WERE AT LEAST HUMAN.
OHH!
KOTON (PLONK)
コトン
THAT'S NOT BAD!
THEN I'LL USE OSAMU-KUN HERE FOR SUZUKI'S MODEL.
I SEE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE MIGHT HAVE SOME OF MIKORIN'S HERE...
I WISH I HAD THREE MORE...
AH!
... MAMIKO, GIRL A, AND BOY B...
AND THEN ...
WHAT IS THIS, SUZUKI'S HAREM !!!?
PICHI
ピチ
PICHI (PERKY)
ピチ

I'M SURE IT'S FINE, BUT SHOW ME JUST IN CASE.
THAT'S WONDER-FUL, NOZAKI-KUN!
THANKS, YOU TWO.
WITH THOSE MODELS, I THINK I FINALLY GOT IT RIGHT!

OH.
THEY'RE ACTUALLY IN THE RIGHT PLA...
I'M NERVOUS TOO.
IT'S NOT JUST YOU.
SUZUKI-KUN...

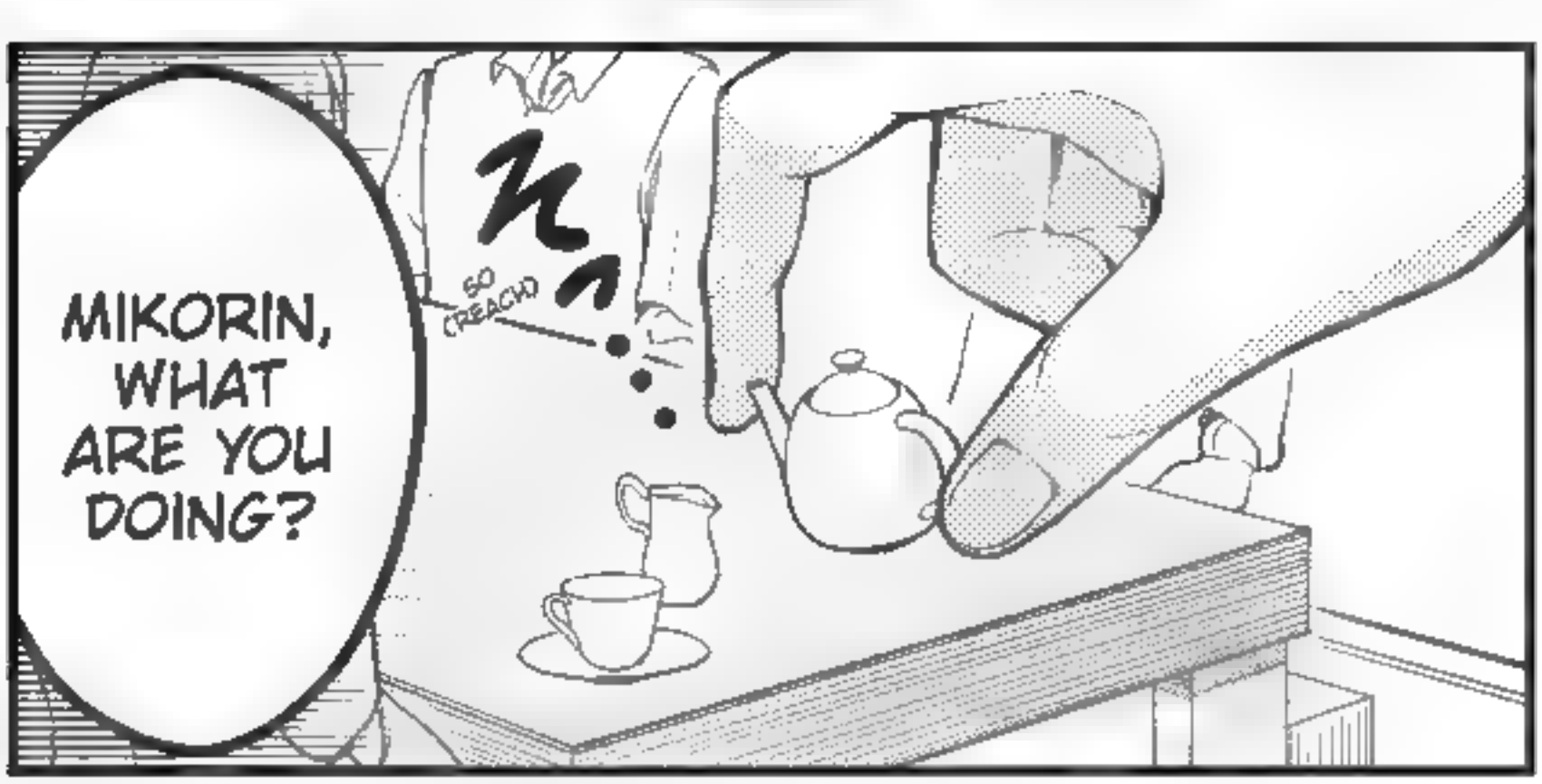

M—
ME TOO ...!!!
...
CES
...

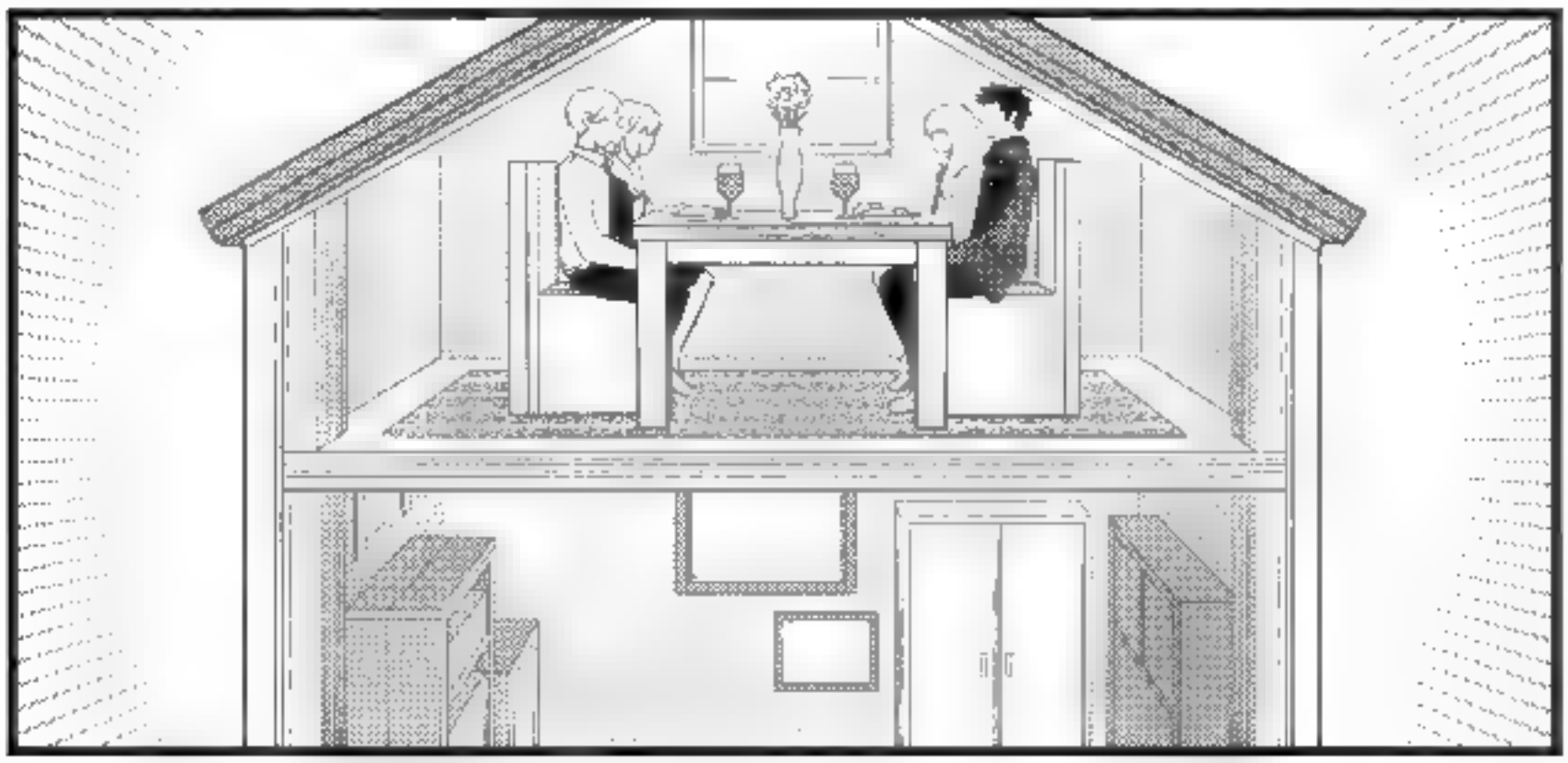

NONAKI-!!!
HA! HA! HA!
TOTALLY!
THEY REALLY ARE SHOWING OFF, AREN'T THEY?

NO WONDER YOU MAKE THE SETS FOR THE DRAMA CLUB!!!
OHHH!
I MADE YOU A TABLE WHILE I WAS AT IT, SO LOOK AT THIS AND MAKE IT WORK!

THE BACKGROUND GUY MADE IT FOR ME YESTERDAY.
OH.
WHAT IS THIS?
HELLO ...
WHOA!

HMM ...

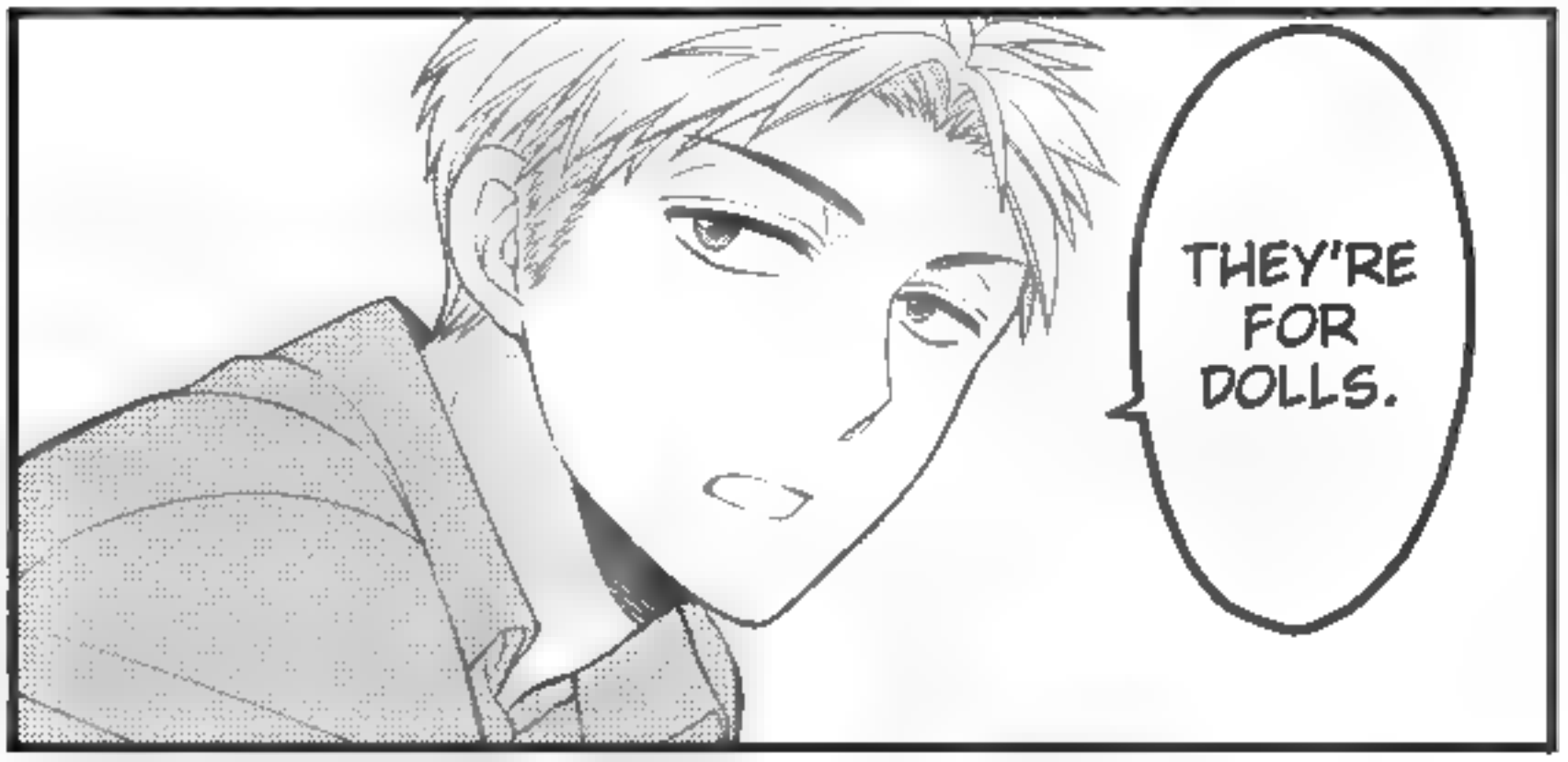

MIKORIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SO CREACH!



WHAT THE HECK ARE THESE TWO GUYS DOING?
WAKU (EXCITED)
WAKU
I WONDER IF HE'LL MAKE ME A KITCHEN NEXT!

PHEW!
OH?
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING THERE, SENPAI?

WOW!
IT'S A BUNCH OF TINY FURNI-TURE!
ARE WE GOING TO USE THESE IN THE NEXT PLAY?
NAH, THESE...
...ARE SOMETHING I'M MAKING FOR ME.


THEY'RE FOR DOLLS.

NOW SENPAI'S EVEN STARTED PLAYING WITH DOLLS...
IS HE OKAY ...?
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
TH—
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING THAT FOR A HOBBY !!!
I THINK IT'S REALLY COOL!!!

IT'LL RUIN THE BALANCE!!!
DON'T PUT THE CHAIR THERE!!!
STOP IT, NOZAKI !!!
BIKU (TWITCH)
Z!!
BIKU
Z!!
IT'S IN WEIRD PLACES.
MAKE SURE YOU PUT THE FURNITURE BACK AFTER YOU MOVE IT.
NOZAKI.
NOTICE OF EVICTION

[ISSUE 25]

AN EXCITING WEAKNESS

Yes.
Don't you think it might be good to give him a weak-ness?
YOU MEAN SUZUKI?
...How do I say this...? Your hero may be a bit too much the perfect superman.

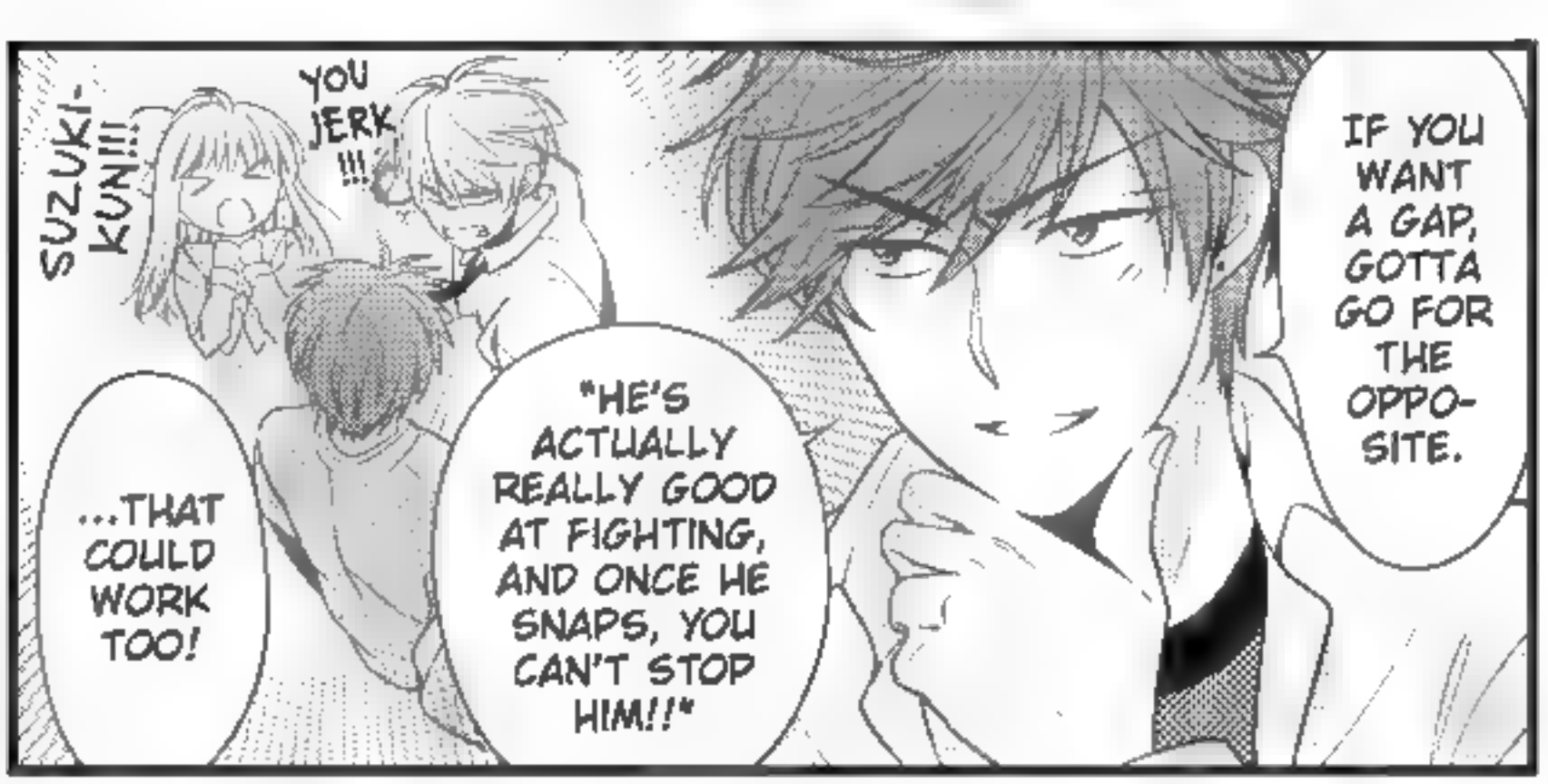
SO I TRIED GIVING SUZUKI A WEAKNESS ...
YEAH.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT HE'S KINDA HOPELESS AT, IT GETS YOU RIGHT THERE!!
THERE'S NO CHINKS IN HIS ARMOR!
WELL, IT'S TRUE. HE'S HARD TO IDENTIFY WITH.

NO ONE CARES ABOUT THAT AT ALL!
HE CAN'T FOLD CLOTHES
SUZUKI'S WEAK-NESS
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DOOR: BOYS' CHANGING ROOM

WHAT THE HELL IS MAMIKO DOING IN THERE!?
ドキン (BADUM)
カァ (BLUSH)
男子更衣室
I-I'LL FOLD IT FOR YOU!!!
OH, AND THIS IS HOW I'M THINKING OF USING IT.

HUH?
LIKE WHAT, FOR EXAM-PLE!?
WE WANT SOMETHING THAT'S MORE ■ YOUR FACE AND UNEX-PECTED!!!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT !!!
TO BEGIN WITH, THAT WEAKNESS IS WAY TOO MINOR !!!
IT'S GOTTA BE, Y'KNOW...!!! MORE LIKE THIS!!!
SUZUKI-KUN!!?
FURAAA (WOBBLE)
AH...
IT'S THE GAP THAT MAKES IT GOOD.
...LIKE THAT.
"HE'S SO TOGETHER USUALLY, BUT HE FAINTS AT THE SIGHT OF BLOOD."
HMM.


SUZUKI-KUN!!!
YOU JERK !!!
...THAT COULD WORK TOO!
"HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD AT FIGHTING, AND ONCE HE SNAPS, YOU CAN'T STOP HIM!!"
IF YOU WANT A GAP, GOTTA GO FOR THE OPPO-SITE.

DOGO (THWACK)
FURAAA
AH...!
WHY DID YOU COMBINE THEM?
LIKE THIS?

*OSCAR IS A REFERENCE TO THE PROTAGONIST OF THE SHOUJO MANGA CLASSIC THE ROSE OF VERSAILLES BY RIYOKO IKEDA, WHICH IS SET IN FRANCE DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. OSCAR IS A WOMAN WHO WAS BROUGHT UP AS A MAN BY HER FATHER TO SUCCEED HIM IN HIS POST AT THE ROYAL COURT. SHE WORKS AS COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL GUARD IN THE COURT OF MARIE ANTOINETTE AND IS PORTRAYED IN MEN'S GARB.

NO! WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYONE IN THE GLEE CLUB...
AND IT'S ALL GIRLS...
HUH !?
?
BUT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO SHE IS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?

...WOW...!! HORI-SENPAI'S SO RELIABLE...
'SCUSE ME!
GARA (SLIDE)
I'M GONNA GO HAVE A LOOK.

HOW DID IT GO!?
H—
SORRY FOR BUGGING YOU.
GARA

HE FORGOT WHY HE WENT IN THERE ...!!!
WE SHOULD DO A MUSICAL!

THE REASON THAT COMES TO MIND

AM I TONE-DEAF !?
HUH !?
THEY WENT AND ASKED HER.
THAT'S NOZAKI-KUN.
KA-SHIMA-KUN.
!!?
GASSHI (RUFFLE)
HAHAHAHAHAH
REALLY! GOSH, C'MON! CHIYO-CHAN!!!
N-NO WAY !!!
...
GASSHI
IT'S UNEXPECTED, AND THAT'S KINDA NICE!
RIGHT, MIKO-RIN!!?
NOT REAL-LY.
NO.
I DON'T CARE.
WAAAAH!
YOU'RE MAJORLY LET DOWN, AREN'T YOU !!!?
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M TONE-DEAF !!! HAVE I LET YOU DOWN !?
AAAH!!
HE'S DOWN ABOUT SOME-THING TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT ...!?
GAKKARI (SAD)
OH...
YOU'RE JUST TONE-DEAF...

HORI-SENPAI SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT TOO?
?
WHAT'S UP WITH TODAY ...?
FIRST THE PRESIDENT, NOW YOU GUYS...
...I RAN INTO THE PRESI-DENT...
...ACTU-ALLY...
...EAR-LIER...
...AND JUMP THROUGH A RING OF FIRE, RIGHT!!!?
YOU CAN SING, DANCE, WALK A TIGHT-ROPE, DO A BACK-FLIP...
KASHIMA!!! LET'S TAKE ON A MUSICAL FOR OUR NEXT PRODUC-TION!!
IS HE REALLY TALKING ABOUT A MUSICAL?
WAIT.
WAAAAHH!
—HE SAID !!!

WHAT IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S GOOD AT SINGING TEACH YOU...?

OH!!!

SOME-HOW...?

JUST THAT SINGING...

I THINK I CAN MAKE EVERY-THING BUT THE SINGING WORK SOME-HOW...

GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND BEG ME. SAY, "PLEASE TEACH ME, SEO-SAMA."

FINE.

HUNH?

YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO SING?

THAT'S A BAD HABIT.

I'M ALWAYS GETTING ASKED TO DO STUFF LIKE THIS.

MOST OF THEM GIVE UP WHEN I SAY THAT.

OH, MY BAD.

HONESTLY!!!

YUZUKI !!!

SHE'S GOT SOME BAD HABITS TOO!!!

THERE WE GO.

HUH?

SO I JUST HAVE TO GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR?

OKAY !!!
WELL, THEN ...
LET ME LISTEN AND BE THE JUDGE.
OKAY, JUST TRY SINGING FOR ME.

MAN, YOU SUCK!
YOU LISTEN TOO!!!
SUPO (POP)
OKAY.
I THINK I GOT IT.

YEAH.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I JUST CAN'T SING.
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
AHA!
HUH ...
SO YOU HAVE A SENSE OF RHYTHM, AND YOU CAN PLAY AN INSTRU-MENT.

GIVE ME A CHOICE WITH A LITTLE MORE HOPE!
WHICH DO YOU LIKE BETTER?
OR YOU CAN PRAC-TICE ALL THE TIME FOR A YEAR AND THEN GIVE UP.
YOU CAN GIVE UP RIGHT NOW.

I JUST WANT TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE HORI-SENPAI CAN SAY, "OH, SHE'S KINDA BAD AT THIS" AND LAUGH IT OFF...
IT'S NOT LIKE... I WANT TO GET REALLY GOOD OR ANYTHING...

SO IT'D BE FASTER TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT SENPAI !!?
OR MAKE HIM FORGET HE EVER HAD THE IDEA.
WE COULD MAKE SENPAI HATE MUSICALS.
WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

IT'S SEO-SEN-PAI ...!!!
OH!
GARA (SLIDE)
声楽部
SIGN: GLEE CLUB
ONE! TWO!
OKAY! HERE WE GO!
MAYBE SHE'S AT LEAST GOOD AT SINGING, EVEN IF SHE'S NOT ON LORELAI'S LEVEL...
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S IN THE GLEE CLUB TOO...
WHA—
WAAAAH!
WHAT'S WRONG, WAKA-MATSU !!?
IT'S JUST TOO MUCH! I JUST FEEL WAY TOO SORRY FOR HER ...!!!
TO BE THAT BAD, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A CLUB...!!

WAKAMATSU'S KINDNESS

Saburou Suzuki
• Kind
• Handsome
• A good guy
• Top grades

• Actually really short (secret boots)
• Straw-like hair from bleaching
• A protruding belly button

• In truth, adds "boyyy" to the ends of his sentences. Examples: "I'm hungry, boyyy!" "I'm just too popular, boyyy!"
• Refuses to acknowledge any handsome guys other than himself. Crushes them with all his might.

I'll stop at nothing, boyyy!

C'MON!!! IT'S JUST NOT FAIR FOR HIM TO HAVE ALL THOSE STRENGTHS!!!

APOLOGIZE TO SEO-SENPAI!!!

WAAAAAAH!

STOP IT!!! DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST SUZUKI OR SOME-THING!!!?

ANSWER UNKNOWN

I'M MAKING SURE NO ONE FINDS OUT SO I CAN LIVE A NORMAL COLLEGE LIFE WHERE I FIT IN.
I'M YU-KARI MIYA-KO.
I'M A SHOUJO MANGA-KA.

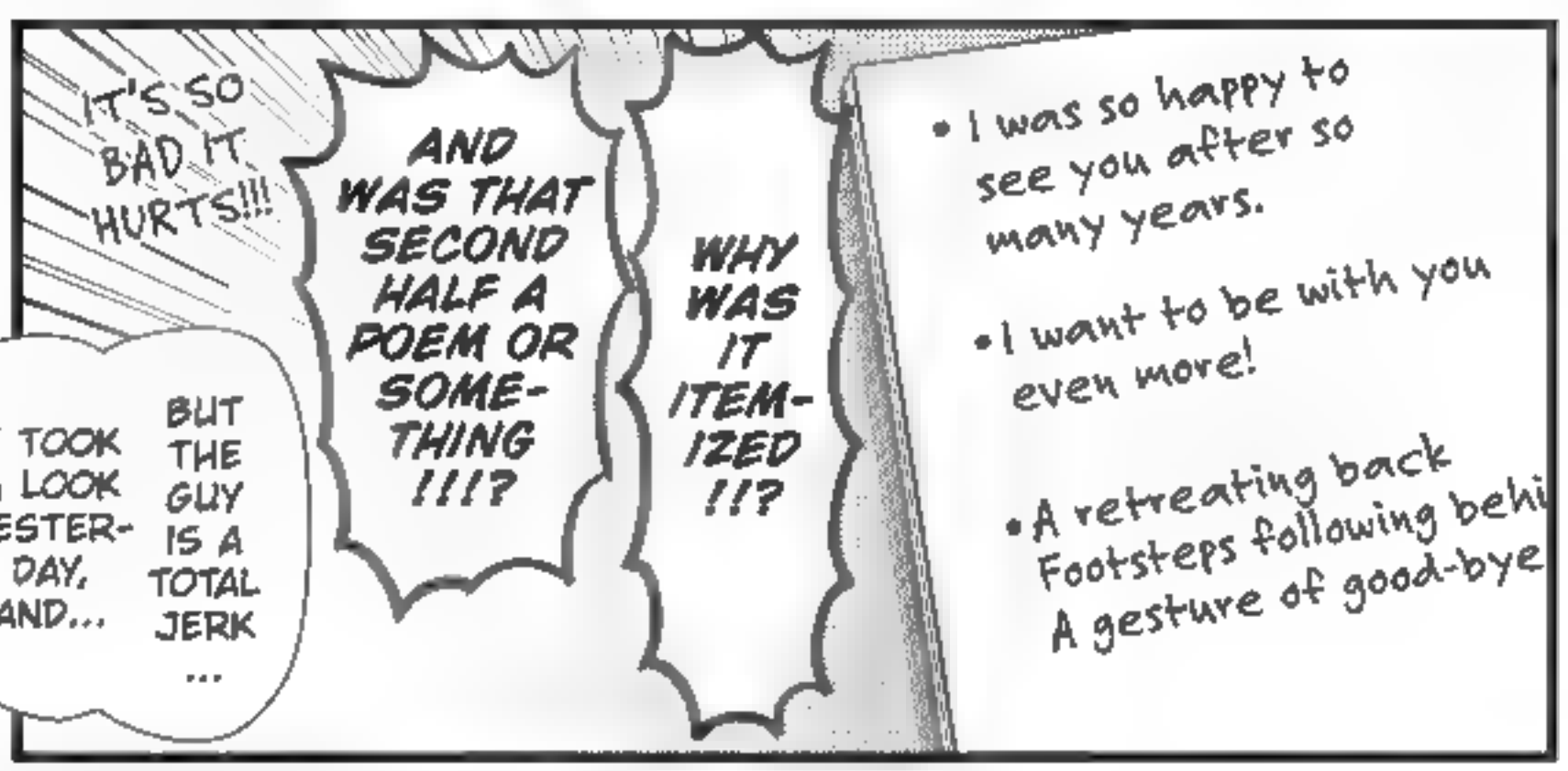
KYAAA!
OHH? MAYBE IT'S HER BOY-FRIEND!
LET'S GO LISTEN IN!!!
OH, SHE'S ON THE PHONE.
HUH?
WHERE'S YUKARI?

...BE SURE TO GET IT ALL READY ON TIME ...!!!
Y-YES! I'LL ...
PEKO (BOW)
UM, I'M AT SCHOOL RIGHT NOW, SO I'LL CALL YOU THIS EVENING ...
I'M SO SOR-RY ...!
PEKO

IT'S JUST MAKING HER STICK OUT MORE.
AN INDULGENT LIFESTYLE ...!!!
NIGHT WORK ...
THAT WAS MY PART-TIME JOB!
A DEBT COL-LEC-TOR ...

A LONG DISTANCE BOY-FRIEND? WHAT'S HE LIKE!?
GET OUTTA HERE !!!
THAT'S NEW!!!
A LONG-DISTANCE ONE.
HUH!?
WHAT? BUT I HEARD THAT YUKARI DOES HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.

(KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
ACTUALLY, SHE WAS WRITING A LETTER TO HIM ON THE SLY DURING OUR LECTURE...


IT'S SO BAD IT HURTS!!!
I TOOK A LOOK YESTER-DAY, AND...
BUT THE GUY IS A TOTAL JERK ...
AND WAS THAT SECOND HALF A POEM OR SOME-THING !!!?
WHY WAS IT ITEM-IZED !!?
• I was so happy to see you after so many years.
• I want to be with you even more!
• A retreating back Footsteps following behi A gesture of good-bye

HUH ...?
A TANUKI ...!!? A—
• I can't believe you had ten other women besides me...
• The shock's too much. I'm going to faint...
AND BE SURE TO PUT IN A TANUKI!!

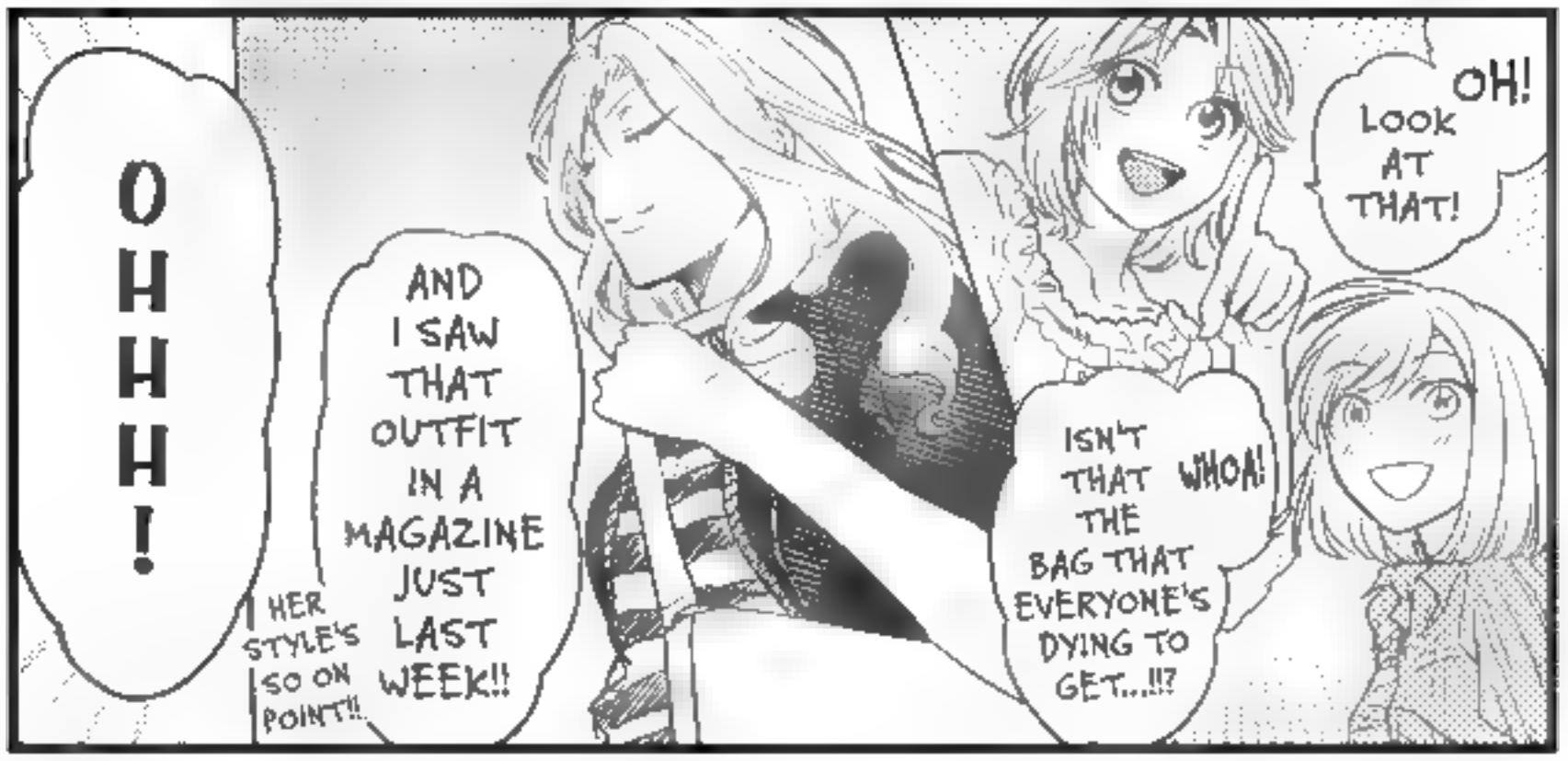
IT'S OKAY.
I NEEDED A BIT OF A BREAK MYSELF.
YAAAY!
I'M JUST STUCK.
... NOZAKI-KUN, CHIYO-CHAN.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU JOIN ME FOR TEA...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'VE BEEN PARTICULARLY INTO LATELY, SAKURA?
OH!
THIS BRAND... THAT FASHION...
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS ASKED TO MAKE MY PROTAGONIST A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL THIS TIME, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW SHE'D TALK...
HUH?
UMM ...
I HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT THAT STUFF EITHER...

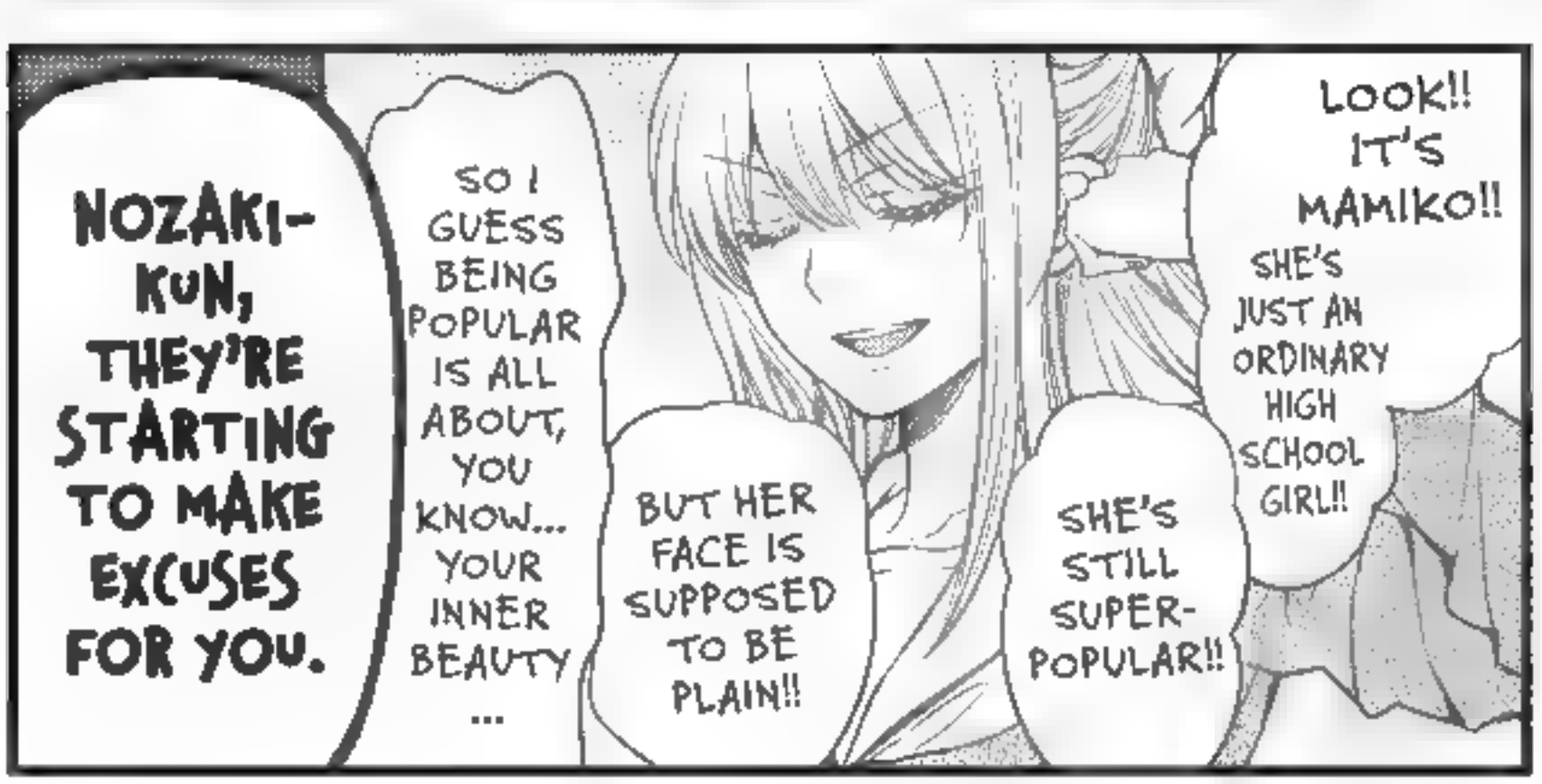
...but Yuzuki came up with a way to scrape it all out, and it's so totally amazing, and—
I'd given up on being able to eat all of the corn...
You know, I have been really obsessed with canned corn soup recently!
OH!

NADE なで
NADE (PAT) なで
WHAT!!?
HUH !?
HUH !?

THE BACK-GROUND CHAR-ACTERS ...?
?
WELL, I GUESS I'LL USE THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS IF I REALLY HAVE TO.
THAT'S RIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE...


OHHH!
AND I SAW THAT OUTFIT IN A MAGAZINE JUST LAST WEEK!!
HER STYLE'S SO ON POINT!!
OH! LOOK AT THAT!
ISN'T THAT THE BAG THAT EVERYONE'S DYING TO GET...!!?
WHOA!

I SEE ...
KARI (SKRITCH)
KARI
IT MAKES THE READER THINK THAT'S HOW IT IS IN THIS WORLD.
THAT REALLY DOES MAKE HER LOOK LIKE A MODERN GIRL!!


NOZAKI-KUN, THEY'RE STARTING TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR YOU.
SO I GUESS BEING POPULAR IS ALL ABOUT, YOU KNOW... YOUR INNER BEAUTY ...
BUT HER FACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE PLAIN!!
SHE'S STILL SUPER-POPULAR!!
LOOK!! IT'S MAMIKO!!
SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!!

...IS ALWAYS A WONDERFUL LABYRINTH.
EACH DAY OF BEING IN LOVE WITH YOU...
WONDERFUL LABYRINTH END
WELL, TO START, IF YOU REPEAT THE TITLE IN THE CLOSING LINES, IT'LL END ON A GOOD NOTE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
ALSO, MAENO-SAN ALREADY DECIDED ON THE TITLE...

OH.
"FOREST OF THE TANUKI."
YUP.
SO WHAT'S THE TITLE?

...THE FOREST OF THE TANUKI ...
... YES ... THIS IS...
WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS...
...AND TAKE MY HAND.

AN INTRUDER

THAT'S ODD.
WHO'S SHE HERE WITH ...?
HUH? IT'S YUKARI.
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS GLOOM AND DOOM...?
IS THIS GUY THE BOY-FRIEND !!?
HUH!!? A HIGH SCHOOL BOY!!?

PATA (PATTER)
PATA
PATA
NO WAY... HE'S YOUNGER ...!? GOSH, AM I GLAD I DIDN'T JUST BARGE IN ON THIS SUPER-INTENSE-LOOKING SITUATION OR WHAT...

WHOA ...!!! WAIT ...!
RIB-BONS !!!
THE CAKE OF THE DAY IS CHEESE-CAKE!!
IT LOOKED SOOO GOOD!!!
YOU GUYS !!

IT'S ABOUT SUZUKI AND MAMIKO

IT LOOKS LIKE THE THREE OF THEM ARE HAVING A CHAT.

MAYBE IT REALLY IS A BREAKUP TALK...

.....YOU KNOW, LATELY...

...I'VE BEEN IN A BIT OF A RUT ...

...AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ADDING A NEW GIRL TO THE MIX.

WHAT THE HELL DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING, SAYING THAT TO HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S FACE!!!?

OH YEAH.

WOULDN'T ADDING IN A NEW BOY WORK TOO?

AND WHAT'S SHE SAYING !!?

IT MIGHT ALSO BE INTEREST-ING TO HAVE A BREAKUP FOR A BIT...

YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO CASUAL ABOUT IT!!!

WHAA—!!? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW SAD PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WOULD BE WITH A BREAK-UP!!!?

GASHAAAN (CRAAASH)

AND YOU'RE TAKING IT WAY TOO FAR!!!

WHY IS RIBBONS WORKING SO HARD FOR YUKARI ANYWAY...?

OKAY, FINE.

THERE CAN'T BE A BREAK-UP! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!

AND WITH YUKARI BEING SO SPACEY, MAYBE THAT GIRL'S TRYING TO ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THEM...

SHE'S WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AS THE GUY. MAYBE THEY'RE CLASS-MATES...

SHE SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE GUY'S CHEATING FOR SURE... THAT'S FIRST.

FIRST .....

LET'S SEE... ...

CHIYO-CHAN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

HEY, RIB-BONS !!!

...I THINK YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE TANUKI.

THEY SUDDENLY JUMPED TO DATE PLANS!!?
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU KNOW, IT'S ALMOST SWIM-SUIT SEASON.

NO, THIS ISN'T A TOPIC A GUY'S GONNA GET INTO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NOZAKI-KUN?
I'M THINKING A FLOWER PRINT BIKINI THIS YEAR...

H—
HE'S GONNA WEAR IT!!?
IT HAS A CUTE SORT OF APPEAL.
I'M GOING WITH RED, POLKA DOTS, AND A FRILLY SKIRT.

RIB-BONS !!!
YA'AAAY!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM BOTH!

...I JUST CAN'T SEE HOW THIS GUY IS SO POPULAR...

HE'S JUST BIG.

ALL THE SAME ...

DON'T TELL ME THAT GIRL HAS A THING FOR HIM TOO!?

そわ そわ SOWA SOWA (FIDGET)

.....WHOA, WHAT—?

HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?

KYORO

KYORO (GLANCE)

THIS IS BAD, YUKARI!!!

IF YOU DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, HE'S GONNA WANDER OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE!!!

YOU TOO !!!?

HUH ...?

UH, OKAY ...

UM, COULD I GET A PICTURE OF YOUR UNIFORM?

... HE'S GONNA BRING HER TO HIS PLACE TOO!?
HUH!? REALLY!!?
I THINK I CAN DO IT.
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY MAKING CAKE AT HOME SOME-TIME.
CHEESE-CAKE!?

YEAH, FOR REAL!!! YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT BREAKING UP, AND NOW YOU'RE CASUALLY INVITING HER OVER !!!?
NO, UM...
OH ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MIYAKO-SAN?

...I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE A CREAM-BASED CAKE.
WILL YOU MAKE ONE FOR ME?
INSTEAD OF CHEESE-CAKE...

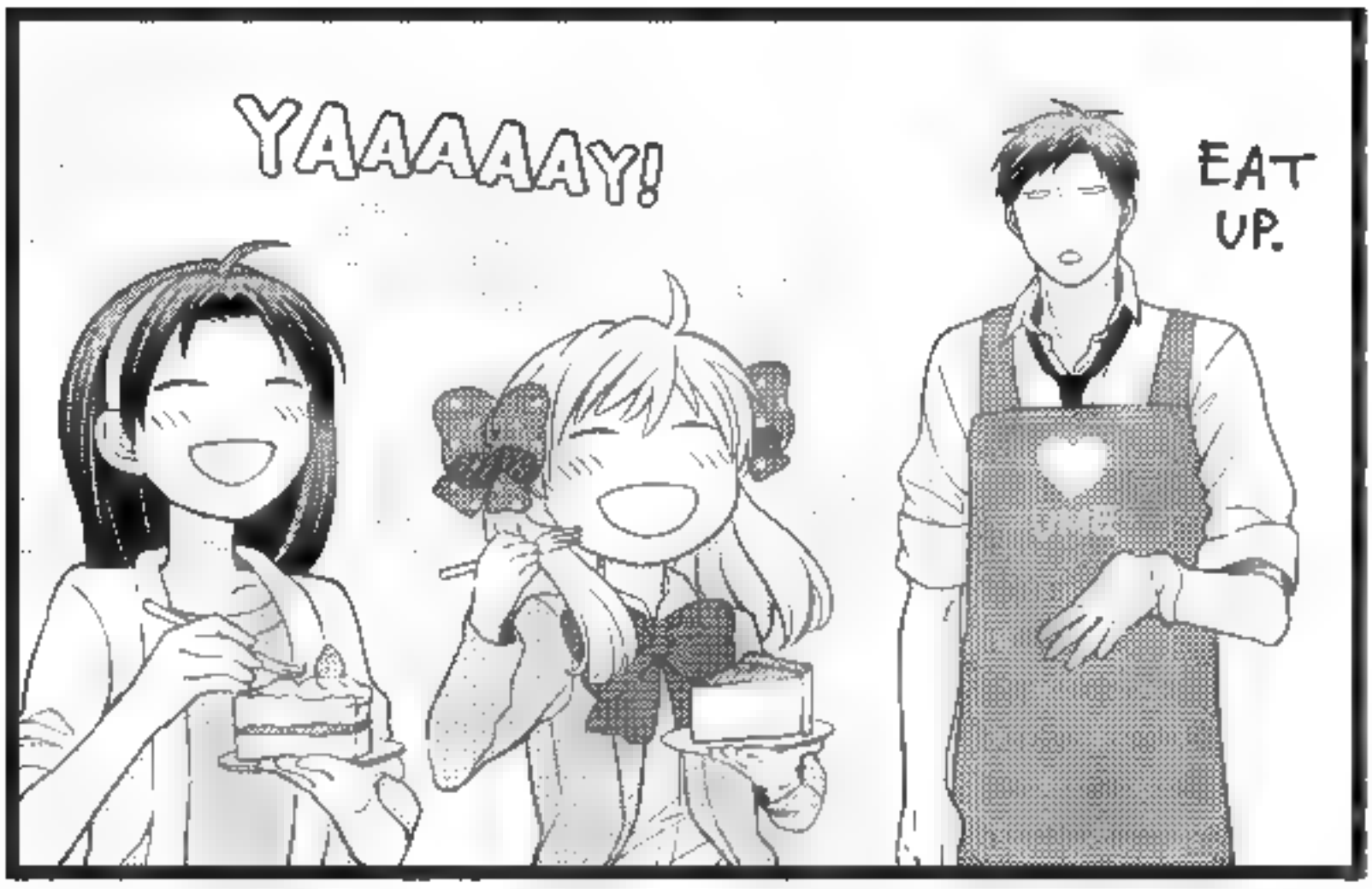
GAN (THUD)
POW

AHH, BUT IT WAS REALLY STRESS-FUL FOR ME...
JUST GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BREAKUP TALK GOT RESOLVED PEACE-FULLY IN THE END.

NO ONE WANTS TO GET CAUGHT UP IN ANOTHER COUPLE'S BREAKUP, SERIOUSLY...
REALLY.
OH, NO...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TAG ALONG LIKE THIS, CHIYO-CHAN.

I'D LOVE TO DO IT AGAIN!!
IT WAS REALLY FUN!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
GIVE ME THE DE-TAILS!!!
HUH!?
THESE DAYS!!?
GATA (CLATTER)
GATA
GATA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS THESE DAYS ARE REALLY SCARY...


YAAAAAY!
EAT UP.

THE SKY WAS CLEAR AND BLUE.

IT WAS THE START OF A NICE, REFRESHING DAY.

.....OR SO IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

[ISSUE 27]

WHAT HAPPENED?

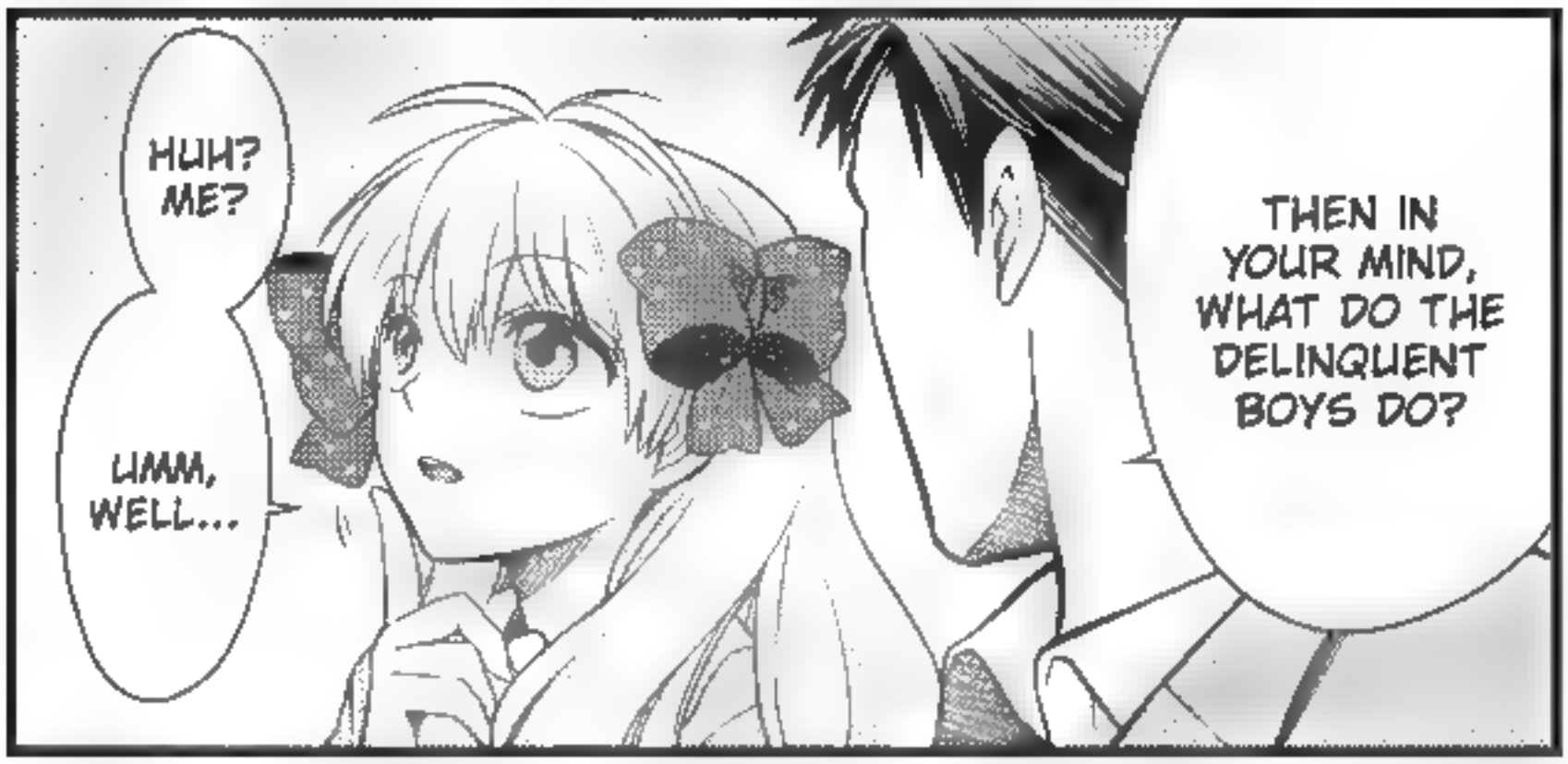
...WE'RE STUDYING THE BEHAVIOR OF BAD BOYS WITH A HINT OF DANGER TO THEM.
GIN (GLARE)
FOR THE NEW RIVAL WHO'S THREATENING SUZUKI...
'COS WE'RE BAD BOYS.
WHAT!?
すたすた SUTA -SUTA
HUH!?
SUTA (STRIDE)
すたすたすた SUTA SUTA
SO DON'T TALK TO US.
!?
DA (DASH)
?
SO I'M BEING LEFT OUT...?
SHUN (DROOP)
THEY'RE WAITING FOR MY CRITIQUE!?
そわ SOWA
そわ SOWA
そわ SOWA (FIDGET)

WELL, A BAD GUY'S MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN SOMEONE WHO'S JUST NICE, ISN'T HE?
KORO (ROLL)
KORO
SO WHY A BAD BOY CHARAC-TER IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YEAH ...
SO TODAY, FOR OUR FIRST STEPS AS BAD BOYS...
THE REBELLION ITSELF IS ROMANTIC.
A WILD DOG, NOT SOME PET, BEARING HIS FANGS AT THE WORLD.

THAT'S JUST A KID ACTING OUT!!!
...BUT I FORGOT MY HOME-WORK TOO!!!
...NOT ONLY DID I STAY UP LATE...
BAN (TA-DAA)

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN REBELLING AGAINST !!!?
...DIDN'T DO THE LAUNDRY !!!
AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, TODAY I...
EVEN THOUGH THE WEATHER'S SO NICE!!!


HUH? ME?
UMM, WELL...
THEN IN YOUR MIND, WHAT DO THE DELINQUENT BOYS DO?

THE HELL WITH CLASS!
TCH!
... DITCHING CLASS TO GO OFF SOME-WHERE.
OR ...
AWW, SHUT UP.
HEY!!! YOU'RE LATE!!!
GARA (SLIDE)
THE COMMON THING IS BEING LATE FOR SCHOOL.

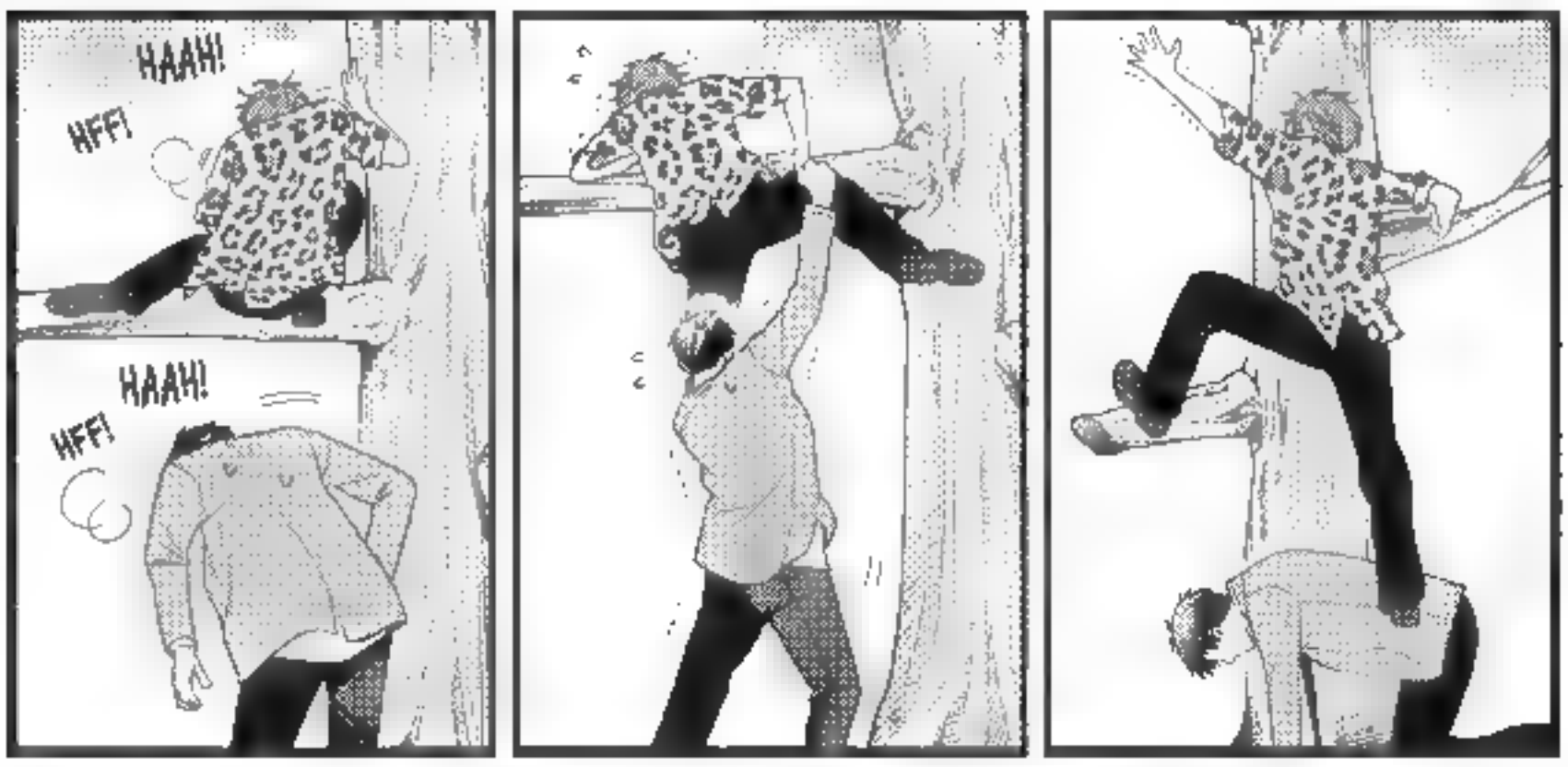
YEAH ...
BE EVEN MORE OBVIOUSLY LATE, SKIP CLASS EVEN MORE...
I SEE... SO WE SHOULD GO ONE STEP FURTHER.

THAT'S JUST TRUANCY!
...WE JUST DON'T GO TO SCHOOL !!!
SO BASI-CALLY ...

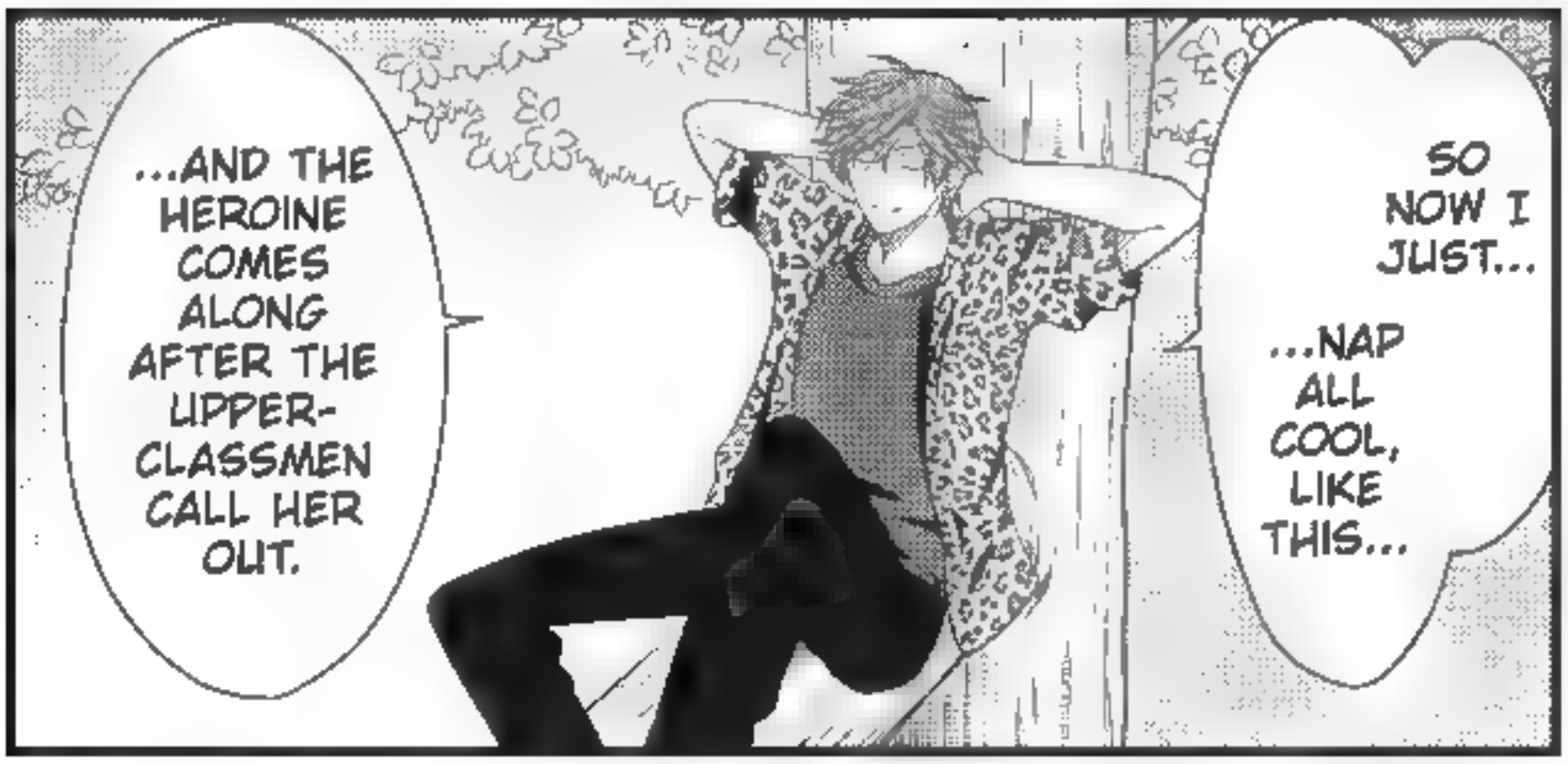
O—
OKAY...
SWOON!
I'M GONNA TRY SOME STUFF, SO YOU HOLD UP THIS SIGN IF IT WORKS FOR YOU.
HMM... I JUST DON'T GET IT...
YEAH, IF A KINDA SCARY BOY CAME TO SAVE THE HEROINE, THAT WOULD BE A BIT EXCITING ...!!!
YOU BASTARDS ARE BEIN' TOO LOUD. I'M TRYIN' TO TAKE A NAP UP HERE!
I THINK I'M GONNA GO WITH SOMETHING TRADITIONAL— CUTTING CLASS UP IN A TREE AND THEN JUMPING DOWN TO SAVE THE HEROINE.
OH.
ZURU (SLIP)
SA (PWIP)
SWOON!

THIS JUST ISN'T A JOB FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT LIGHT ON HIS FEET.
PON! (PAT)
STEP BACK, NOZA-KI.

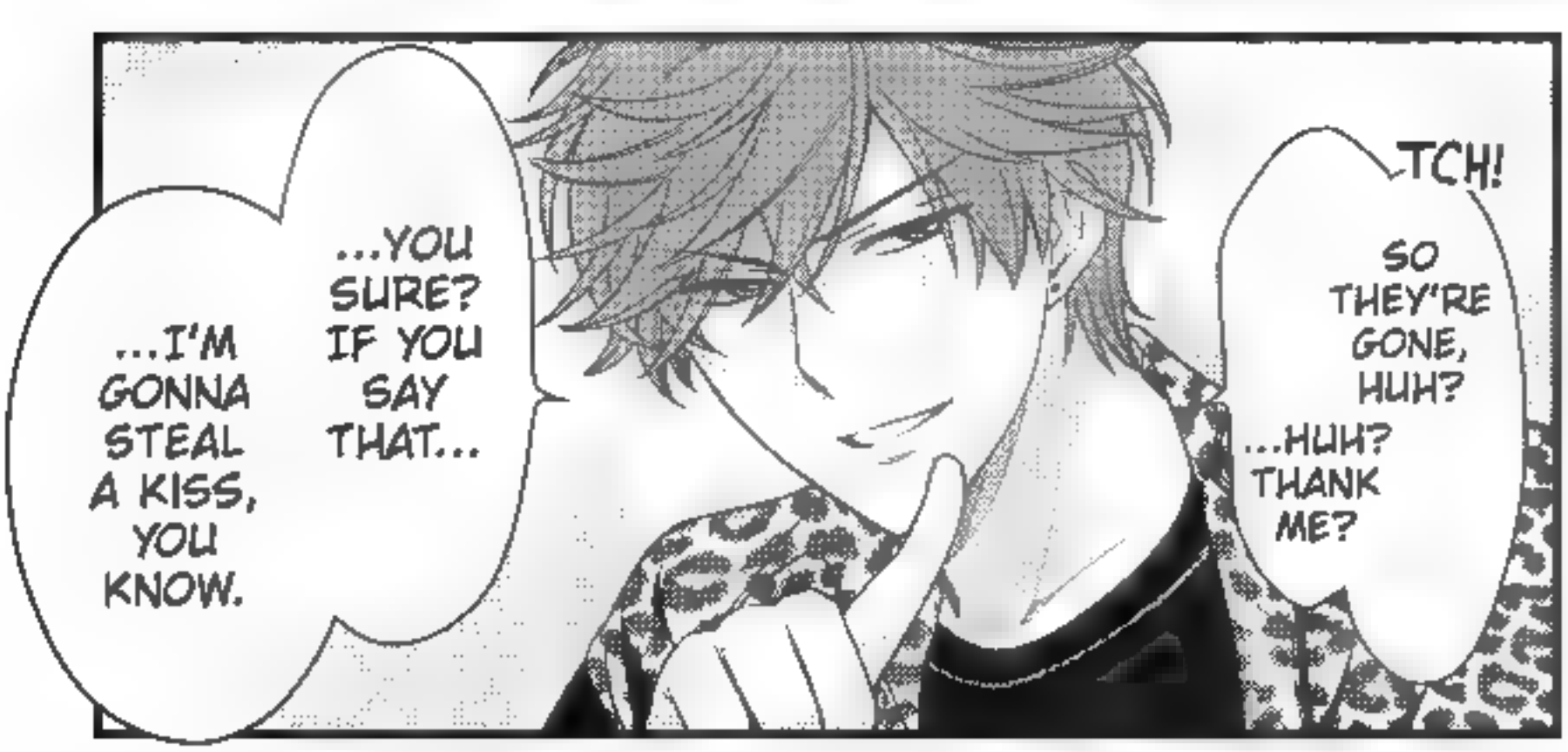
ZURU (SLIP)


HAAH!
HFF!
HAAH!
HFF!

HUH ...?
OH... YEAH...
CONGRATS.
I made it up !!!
BA (FWIP)


...AND THE HEROINE COMES ALONG AFTER THE UPPER-CLASSMEN CALL HER OUT.
SO NOW I JUST...
...NAP ALL COOL, LIKE THIS...

SO MANY OF YOU GANGING UP ON ONE PERSON LIKE THAT'S REAL LAME.
HEY.
ENOUGH OF THAT.


...I'M GONNA STEAL A KISS, YOU KNOW.
...YOU SURE? IF YOU SAY THAT...
TCH!
SO THEY'RE GONE, HUH?
...HUH? THANK ME?

BOTH!
DAM-MIT!
WELL...I'M WONDERING IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT 'COS YOU'RE SCARED OR 'COS YOU'RE EMBARRASSED...
...
HEY!
SAY SOME-THING !!!

WE'RE GONNA SPLIT UP FROM HERE ON...
...NO-ZAKI !!!
OKAY !!!
ACK!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME.
YOU'RE RIGHT ...!!!
ISN'T THIS TYPE COOL 'COS HE'S A LONE WOLF?
YOU KNOW, I WAS THINK-ING...

YOU'RE JUST TIRED, AREN'T YOU?
LEAVE IT TO ME!!!
GUUU (ZZZ)
THEN I'M GONNA GO FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE KIND OF BAD BOY WHO SLEEPS IN CLASS ...!!
GOT IT...

...ANY-WAY...
I'M NOT A WUSS LIKE YOU TWO.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OKAY, MIKORIN!?
HUH !?
I THINK I'LL STAY HERE AND CUT...

YOU WUSS !!!
I'LL GET CHEWED OUT REAL GOOD...
...I DIDN'T DO MY HOME-WORK...

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

JUST HURRY UP AND SCRAM!

DON'T COME CRYING LATER ABOUT HOW YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN UP AFTER ALL!

ARE YOU REALLY SURE...

...MIKO-SHIBA?

WHEW.

.....

THEY'RE FINALLY GONE...

PATA (PATTER)

PATA

PATA

YOU TWO STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO... I'D NEVER SKIP JUST 'COS I FORGOT MY HOMEWORK...!!

LOOKS LIKE I MANAGED TO GET THEM OUT OF HERE WITHOUT THEM NOTICING ...

HE'S ALREADY BEEN CRYING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE NOW.

GATA

GATA

GATA (TREMBLE)

I CAN'T GET DOWN!!!

HMM?
A BAG?
POOON (TOSS)
DOSA (THUD)

...IT'S THAT!?
I'LL JUST CLIMB THE WALL~!!
I'M SOOOO LATE~!
ACK!
DON'T TELL ME...

BYUN (F.WOOSH)
-DOSU- (THWACK)

!!?
BYUN
BYUN
BYUN

ASSESSING THE SITUATION AND MAKING A DECISION

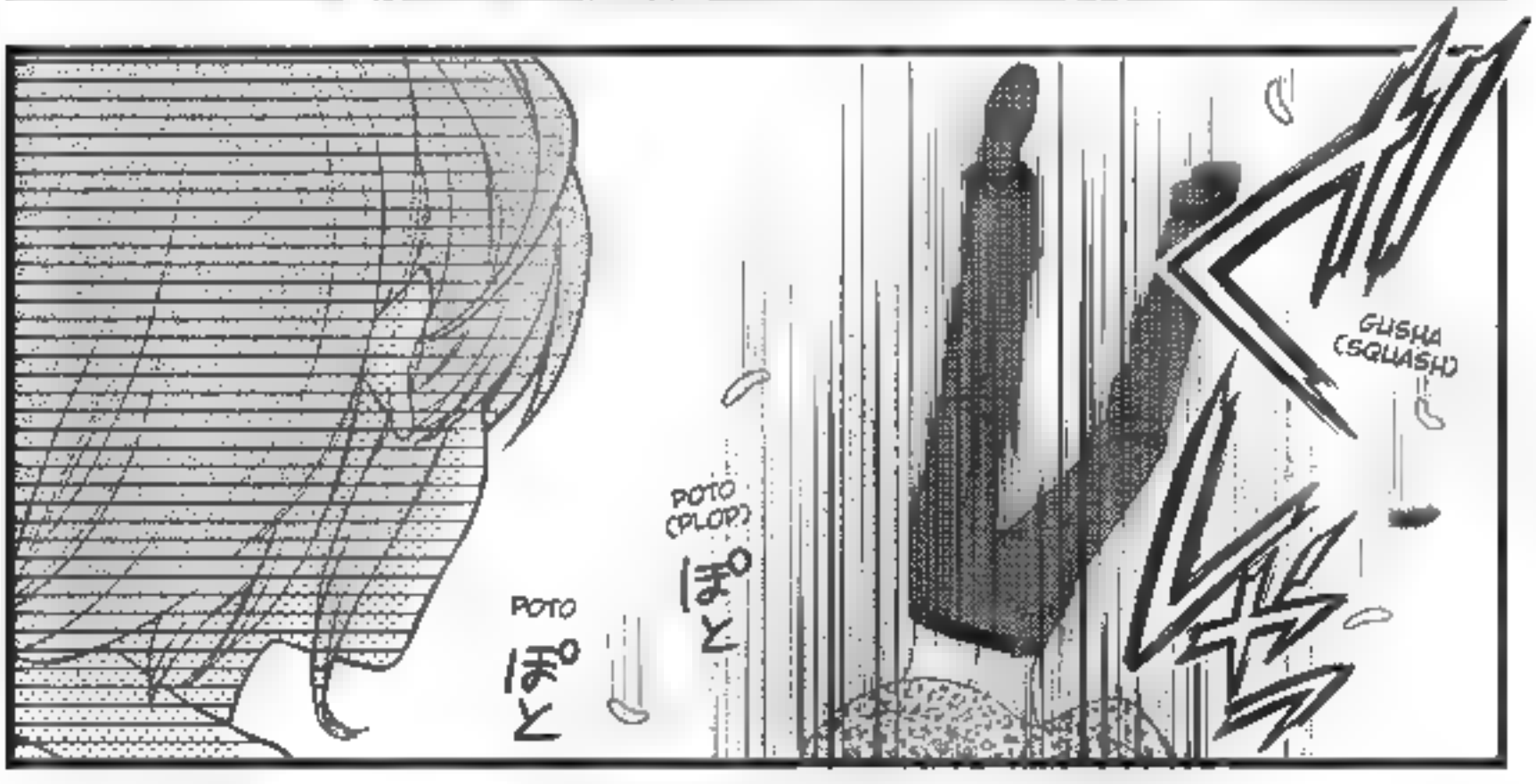
THERE!
TAKE THAT BAG!!!
HURRY UP AND GET TO CLASS!!!
POI (TOSS)
POI
POI
D-DON'T SLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS !!!
NOW I CAN'T GET DOWN !!!

DON'T SEND IT BACK!!!
BASHI (SMACK)

TAKE THAT, AND THAT, AND THAT!!!
YOU DON'T WANNA BE UNDER THIS TREE ANYMORE, DO YOU!!?
THERE, TAKE THAT !!!
YUSSA
YUSSA
YUSSA (SHAKE)
THEN I'LL DROP SOME BUGS ON HER OR SOMETHING!!!
O-OKAY ...!!!

!!!
HYUN
HYUN
HYUN (WHOOSH)

...HMM ...?
WHAT ...?
GASA (RUSTLE)
GASA


POTO
ぽと
POTO (PLOP)
ぽと
GUSHA (SQUASH)

DO YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT, SEO?
I'M LATE 'COS A CUTE GUY FELL FROM THE SKY.

SINCE I HAVE IT, I MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A GO.
SWOON!
YOU KNOW ...
...I MADE THIS, BUT IT DIDN'T GET ANY USE.
THIS CHARACTER WAS SUPPOSED TO SINK LIKE LEAD, WEREN'T THEY?
HEY. NO-ZAKI-KUN.
SA-KURA.
I HAVE A RE-QUEST ...
月刊 少女 ロマンス MONTHLY GIRLS' ROMANCE
BA (WHIP)
SWOON
BUT IN THIS ISSUE, THEY'RE SWIMMING LIKE A FISH.

[ISSUE 281]

...I FOUND SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE.

IN THE BACK OF THE FRIDGE ...

SOME-THING FELL OUT OF...

HUH?

WELL, I OPENED IT UP, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE CANDY.

LET'S HAVE IT!

HIRA (FLUTTER)

OHH?

WHAT'S THAT?

2-14

Happy ♥ Valentine's Day

Dear Nozaki-kun,
I like you!

Chiyo Sakura

...IT...

YUM!

I COULDN'T GIVE THEM TO HIM ON VALENTINE'S DAY, SO THEY'VE BEEN IN THE FRIDGE EVER SINCE...
I TOTALLY FORGOT...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WELL, NO...I TOTALLY MEANT TO GIVE THEM TO HIM, BUT...
YOU COWARD!!
WHAAAT!? YOU BOUGHT THEM BUT DIDN'T GIVE THEM TO HIM?
A TEACH-ER —!!!
THE LADY FROM THE SCHOOL STORE —!!!
DA (DASH)
THERE'S A FIRST-YEAR GETTING CON-FESSED TO OUT BACK!!!
HEY! SOMEONE'S GIVING HASHIGUCHI CHOCO-LATES!
GATA (CLATTER)
UGH ...!!
...I HONESTLY JUST COULDN'T CATCH HIM ...!!!

A FUN EVENT

ONE MONTH EARLIER

SOWA (FIDGET)

SOWA

IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY!

HUH ...?

YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...?

YEAH!

ONE WEEK EARLIER

KYORO

KYORO (GLANCE)

HEY!!

IT'S ALL GIRLS IN THERE!!

YOU'RE GOING IN!?

HE'S CHECKING OUT THE GOODS.

MUST BE NICE TO BE GETTING SOME.

バレンタイン フェア!!

PAPER: VALENTINE'S FAIR!! / SIGN: VALENTINE—

THE DAY OF

DA (DASH)

HMPH!

HE'S ALL FIRED UP...

OKAY, I'M GONNA GO CHECK THINGS OUT!

WELL, HE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

WHY NOT!!?

HUH ...!?

SAY WHAT!?

HUH? CHOCOLATES? I DIDN'T GET ANY.

PAPER: CHOCOLATIER— / TO JAPAN!!!

THOSE TWO ARE PRETTY CLOSE.

YEAH.

EX-CAPTAIN NOZAKI ASKED FOR HIM.

HUH?

WHERE'S WAKA-MATSU?

MAYBE THEY'RE PLAYING BASKET-BALL?

PASS!!!

NO-ZAKI-SEN-PAI!

...GO GET THE LIMITED EDITIONS FROM THE SHOP NEXT DOOR!!

NOW ...

OKAY!!!

TEA (DASH)

PASHI (GRAB)

NICE WORK, WAKA-MATSU!!!

H—

HE'S NOT SERIOUS ABOUT HIM, IS HE ...!!?

EXPEN-SIVE CHOCO-LATES ...!!?

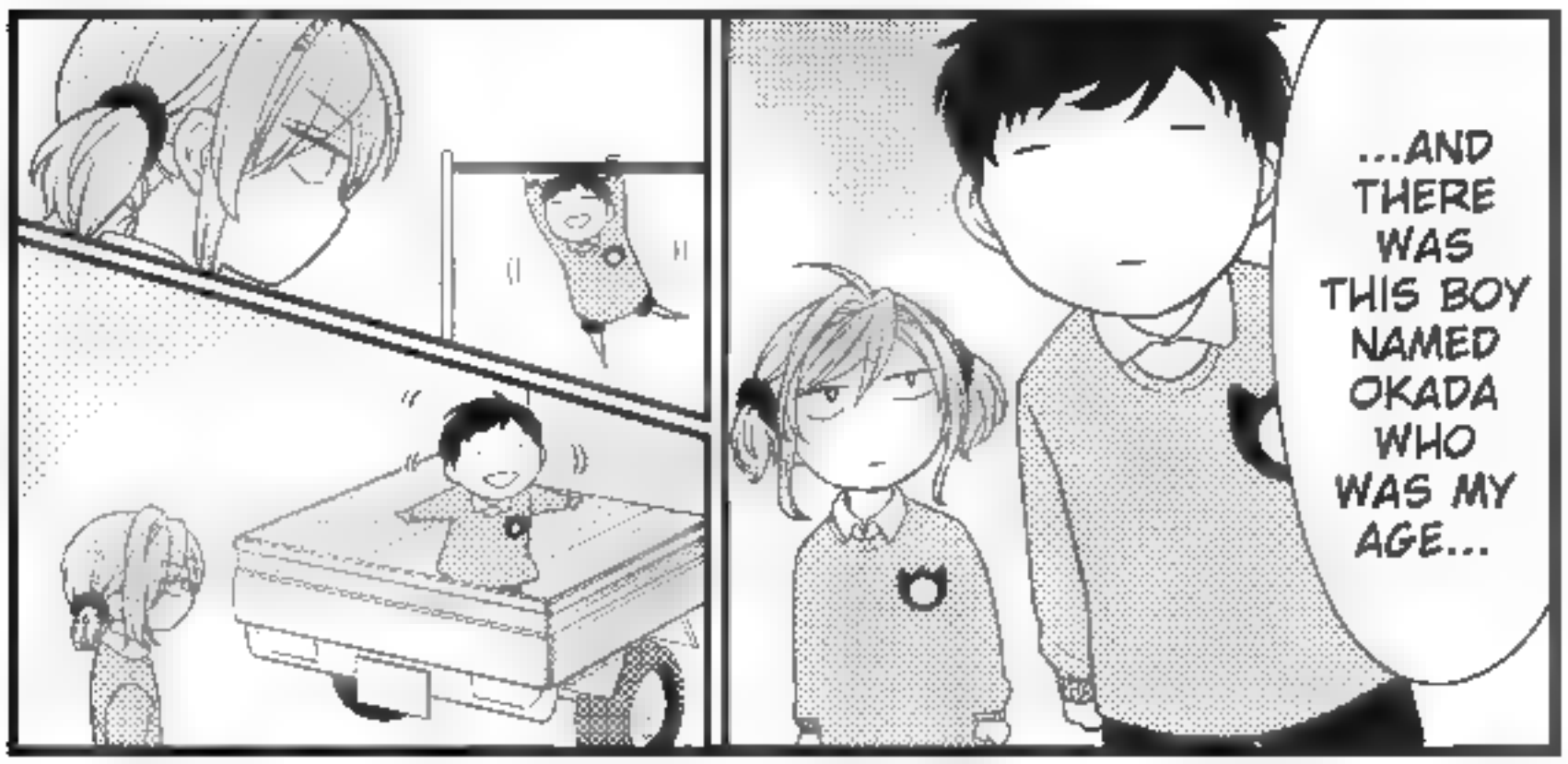
HE SAID THEY'RE GOOD ONES.

NOZAKI-SENPAI GAVE ME SOME CHOCO-LATES.

THANKS

HMM...
NOT LATELY ...
BUT, YOU KNOW ...
YOU'VE NEVER MENTIONED DOING IT BEFORE...
HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN SOMEONE CHOCOLATES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, YUZUKI?

YOU'RE GOING THAT FAR BACK ...!!?
...I THINK I WAS ABOUT THREE BACK THEN...


...AND THERE WAS THIS BOY NAMED OKADA WHO WAS MY AGE...

WHAT HAPPENED TO OKADA-KUN AFTER THAT!?
WAIT!!!
NOPE. THAT'S NOT IT.
OH.
BURORORO (VROOM)

HUH!!?
NAH.
I GAVE HORI-SENPAI CHOCOLATES.
WAIT, GETTING THEM'S YOUR SPECIALTY, I'LL BET!
SO, KASHI-MA-KUN, YOU...

SO I WENT TO THE STORE ...
SEE, SENPAI SAID, "I DON'T WANNA EAT ANY HANDMADE CHOCO-LATES" ...
YEAH.
DON'T TELL ME... THEY WERE HAND-MADE ...!?

...AND GAVE THEM TO HIM.
THANKS.
OH.
HERE YOU GO!
...MADE A PERFECT COPY OF THEM...
MAZE CHIKO
MAZE
...USED THE CHOCOLATES THERE AS AN EXAMPLE...

KASHIMA-KUN, DO YOU LIKE SENPAI? OR DO YOU HATE HIM?
HEH...
SO BASICALLY THAT MEANS SENPAI ATE THE VERY HANDMADE CHOCOLATES HE HATES SO MUCH...

AWW, COME ON! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
YEAH...BUT WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT EASILY ...
I LOVE THE PRESIDENT!!
WHAAAT? I LIKE HIM! I TOTALLY RESPECT HIM!

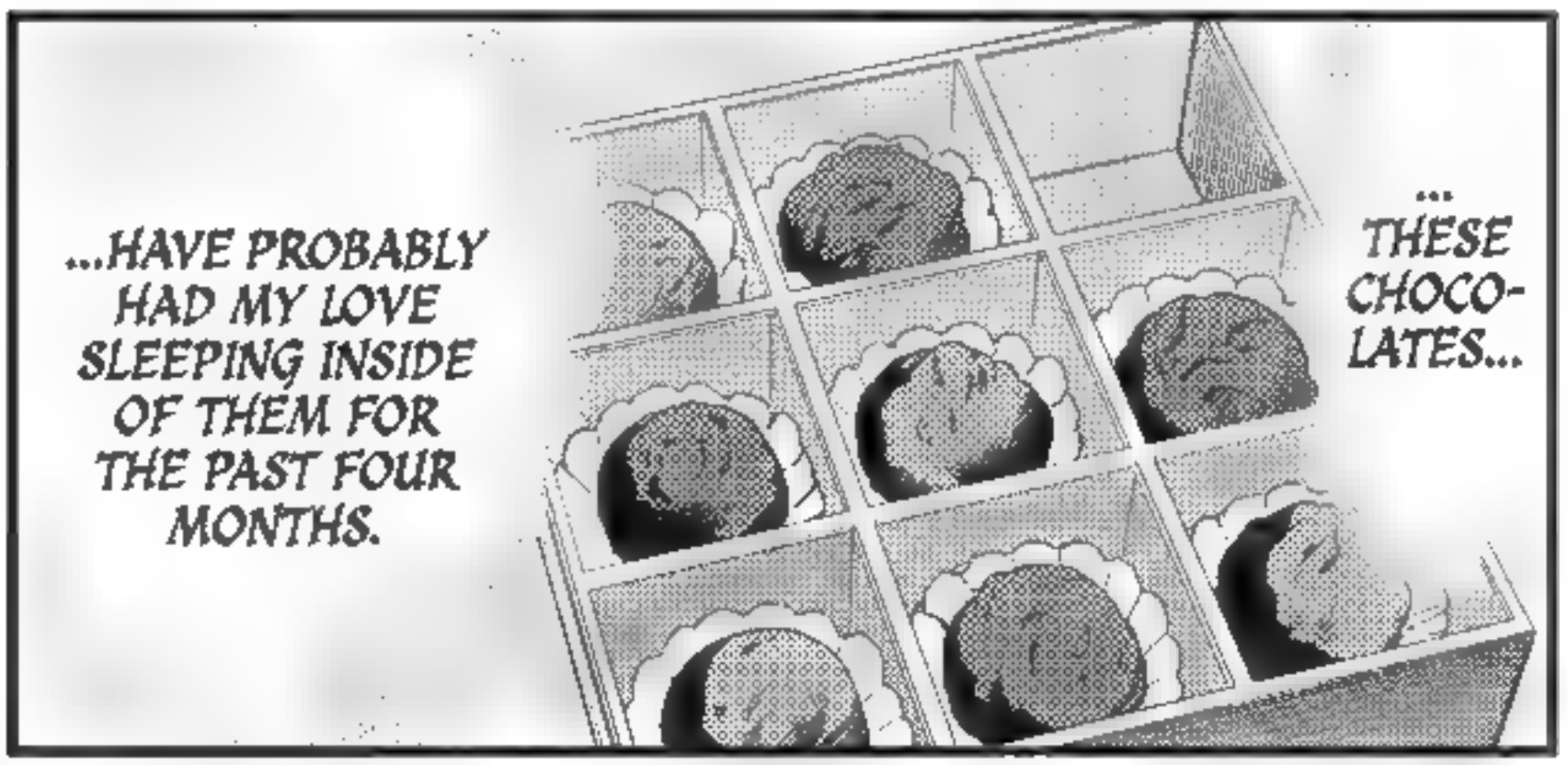
THAT'S MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT !!!
OHHH!
I'M GONNA GO HERE!!
I MEAN, I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL 'COS I SAW SENPAI IN A PLAY.

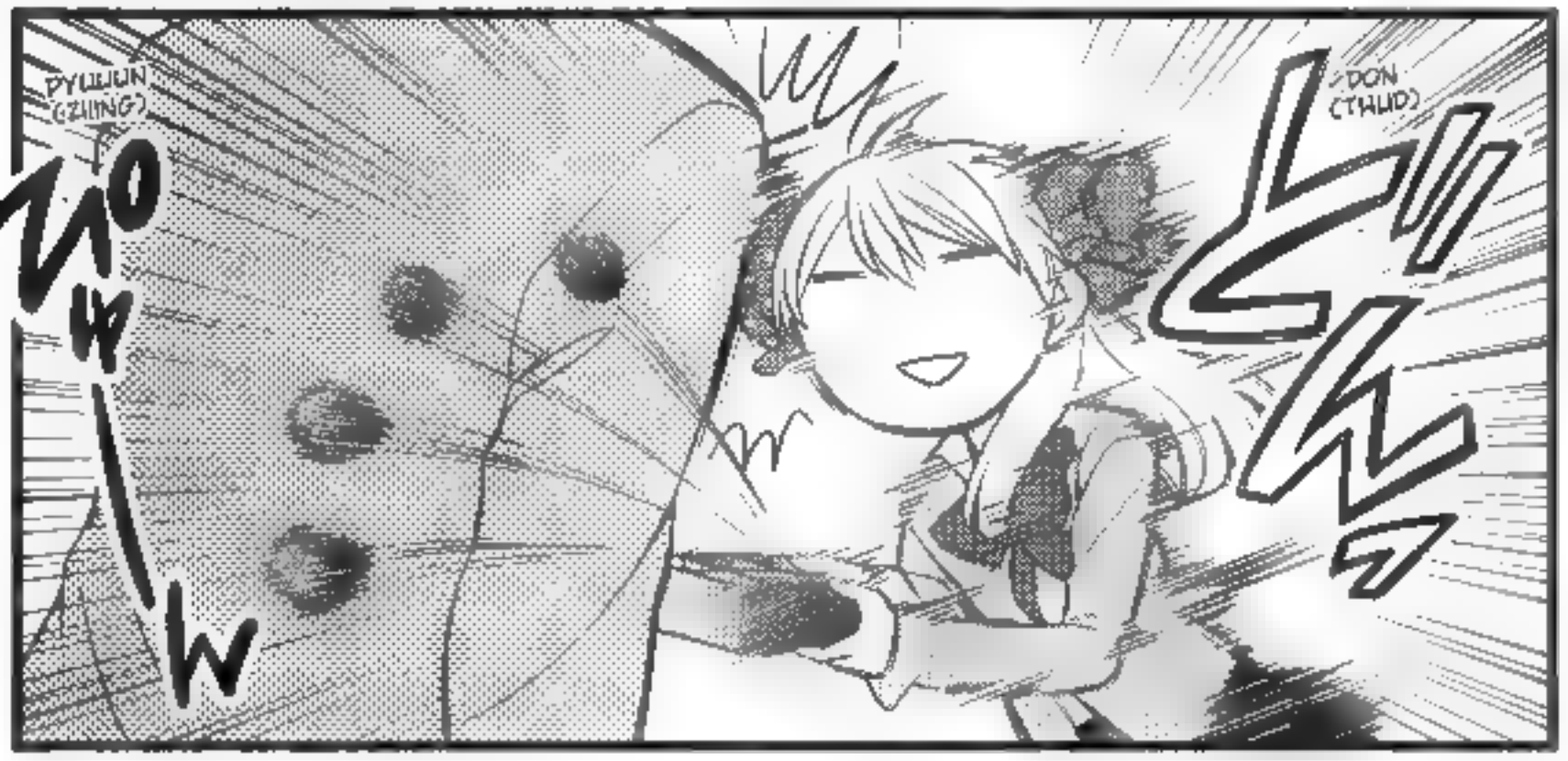
AND THEN WHAT DID YOU SAY BACK ...!?
OHHH ...!!!
IT WAS FATE!!!
YOU COULD BE THE HERO OF THE DRAMA CLUB!!
THEN AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY... SENPAI CAME UP TO ME AND SAID...

TOO CASUAL !!!
WHOOO!
HUH?
REALLY?

NOW IT WOULD BE PRETTY EASY TO GET HIM TO EAT THESE...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WELL, SINCE YOU FINALLY FOUND THOSE CHOCOLATES AGAIN, WHY DON'T YOU GET HIM TO EAT THEM NOW?

KAPO (POP)
カポ
EVEN THOUGH VALENTINE'S DAY IS LONG OVER..


...HAVE PROBABLY HAD MY LOVE SLEEPING INSIDE OF THEM FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS.
... THESE CHOCO-LATES...


PYUEUN (ZHING)
NO W
DON (THUD)

S-SORRY, SAKURA.
UH... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?

NOZAKI-KUN, OF ALL PEOPLE ...!
I REALLY AM SORRY ...
UH... UMM... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
LOVE
LOVE

OH, NO. I'M REALLY NOT MAD. IT'S OKAY.
AFTER ALL, THEY WERE FOR NOZAKI-KUN IN THE FIRST PLACE...

THE TRUTH IS, I WANT YOU TO EAT THEM.
SHE'S REALLY PISSED ...!!?
PICK THEM UP AND EAT THEM!!!

!!!
PAKU (CHOMP)
BUT IF IT'LL MAKE HER FEEL BETTER...
DID SHE COOL OFF A LITTLE ...?
MOGU (MUNCH)
MOGU
WILL THIS DO...?

Nozaki-kun ...!!!
N.....!

...LOOKS SO HAPPY...
SHE...

I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME-THING AS AN APOLOGY.
NO!
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT!!!
NO.
I REALLY AM JUST FINE!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE YOU THAT MAD...
LIKE I SAID!
I'M NOT MAD!!!
BUT I JUST CAN'T LET THINGS STAND LIKE THIS...
OH!
I'D LOVE SOME CANDY!
CANDY !!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST!
KYAAA!
CANDY...? CANDY...!? IS THAT SOME SORT OF CODE ...!?
IN PLACE OF THE WHITE DAY GIFT! ♡ JUST KIDDING !!!
LIKE THE CARROT AND THE STICK...?

VALENTINES FOR MIKOSHIBA-KUN

MIKO-SHIBAAA! THESE ARE FOR YOU!

MIKO-SHIBA-KUN! HERE!

OH!

HERE YA GO!

THERE YOU ARE, MIKO-SHIBA!

MIKO-SHIBA.

FOR YOU.

EVERYONE GETS SUCH A KICK OUT OF THIS...

JUST GIVE ME A NORMAL PRESENT...

HERE, CHOCO-LATES.

Happy birth-day...

...Miko-shiba.

BORN 2/14

[ISSUE 29]

LOOK, LOOK! PRAISE ME!

WAKA-MATSU'S BEEN HELPING WITH APPLYING SCREEN TONE LATELY.

YEAH.

THANKS.

NOZAKI-SENPAI, IS IT OKAY IF I CUT THIS TONE UP?

OHH.

YOU GOT IT ON THERE NICELY.

WAY TO GO, WAKA-MATSU.

OHH.

YOU CUT IT OUT NICELY.

YOU'RE GREAT AT THIS.

DON'T PLAY WITH THE SCRAPS!

We got an alien!!!

WELL... FIRST OFF...

WHAT OTHER STUFF IS THERE?

IT JUST HAPPENS WITH TONE, DOESN'T IT!?

OF COURSE, I DID THAT WHEN I FIRST STARTED WORKING WITH TONE TOO.

GUSA (SLICE)

!!

...YOU CUT YOUR HAND WITH THE BLADE.

!!!

BYON (BOING)

BYON

DOSU (STAB)

YOUR HAND SLIPS, AND THE BLADE GETS STUCK IN THE FLOOR.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THAT WON'T CAUSE ME BODILY HARM?

DOSU

!!

!!!

AND EVERY NOW AND THEN, THE BLADE STABS YOUR THIGH INSTEAD.

WAKA-MATSU !!!

MAYBE I'LL GO LOOK FOR ONE ON MY WAY HOME...

IT'S PRETTY ROUGH UNTIL YOU FIND A BLADE THAT WORKS FOR YOU.

DOSU (THWACK)

THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING? WHAT?

I WAS KINDA THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING BACK THERE...

NAH ...

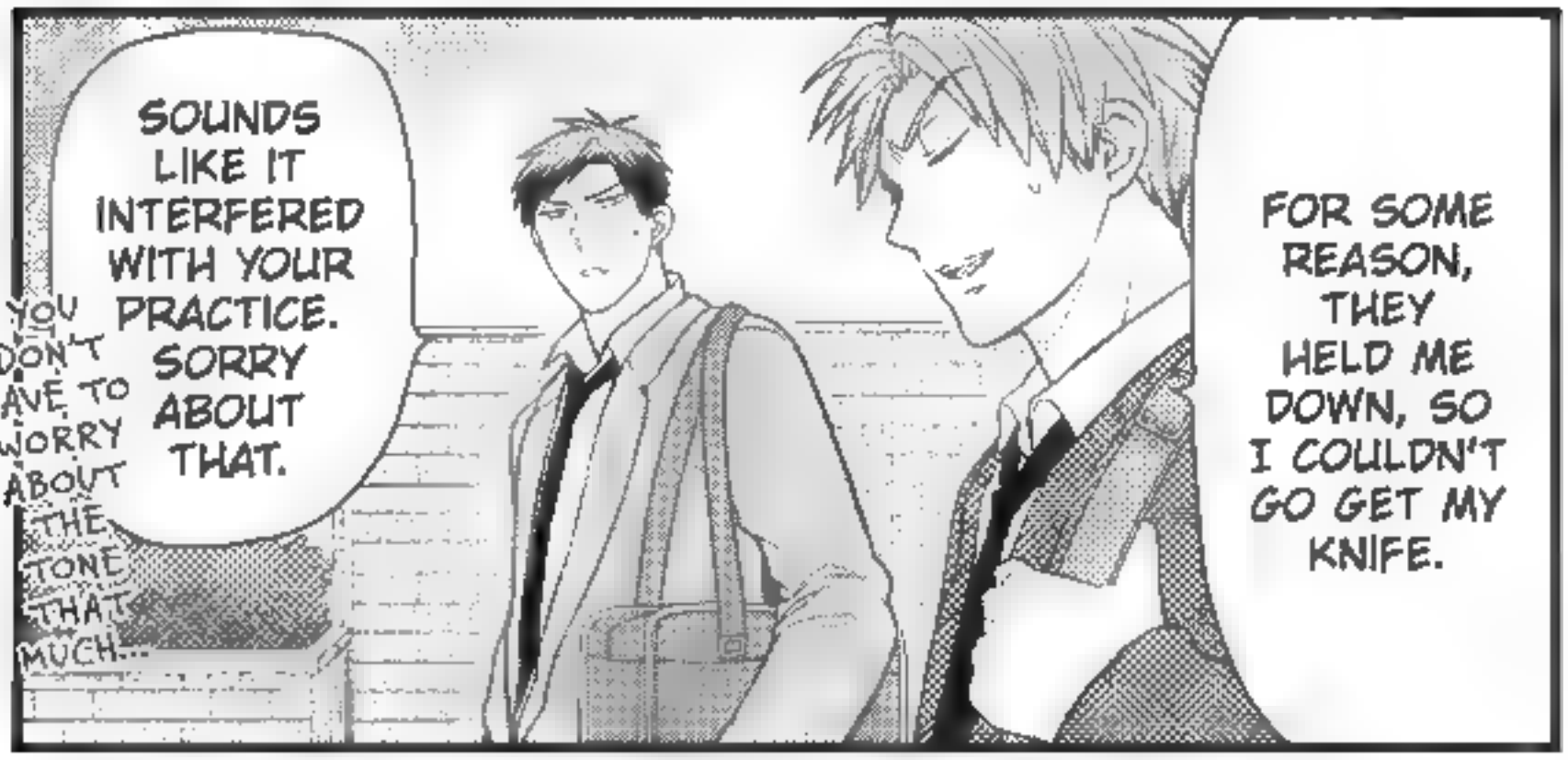
YOU NEED TO TELL HER OFF SOMETIMES !!

SEO-SENPAI'S JUST AS HORRIBLE AS USUAL.

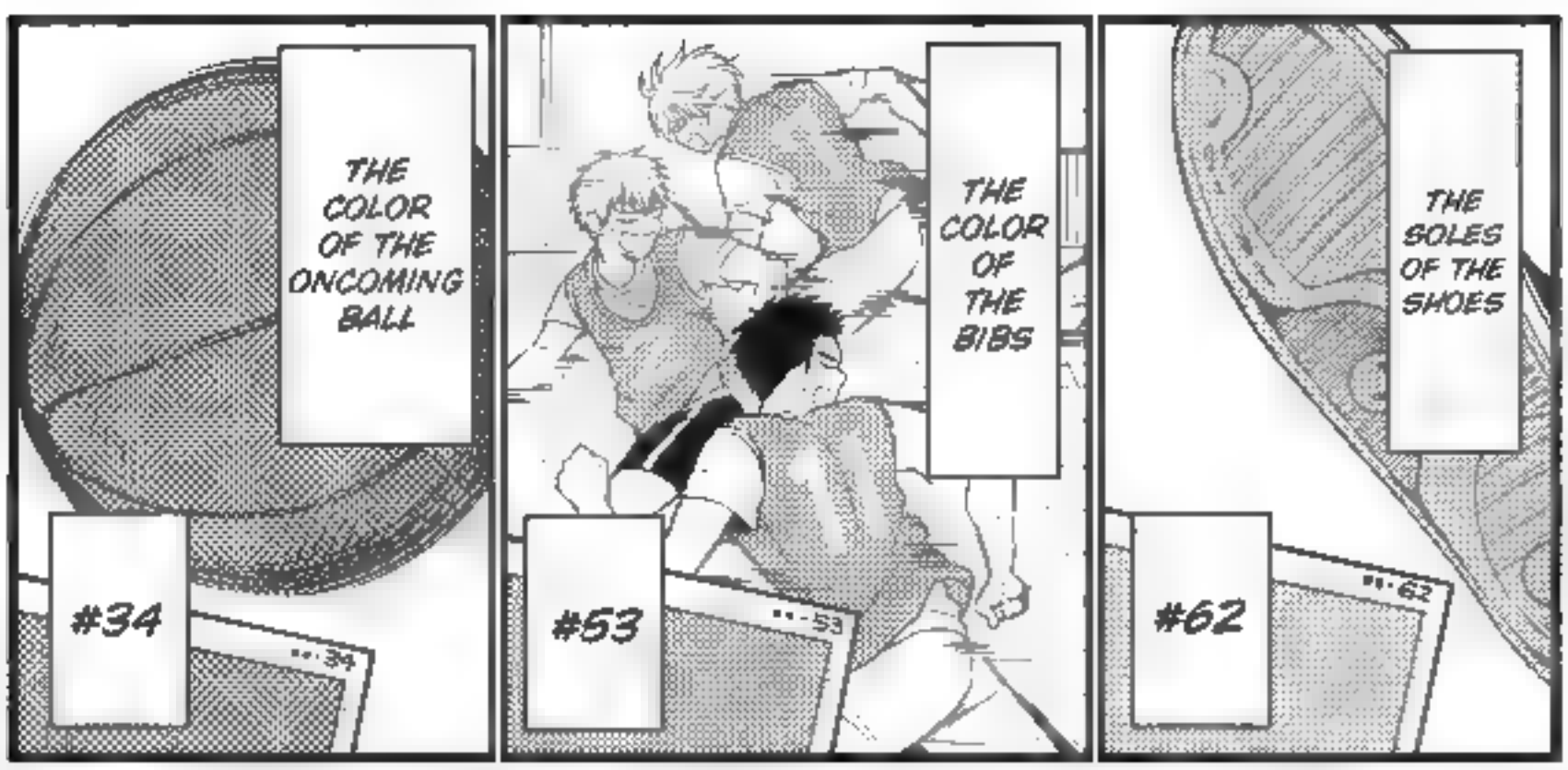
SOME-ONE STOP WAKA-MATSU !!!

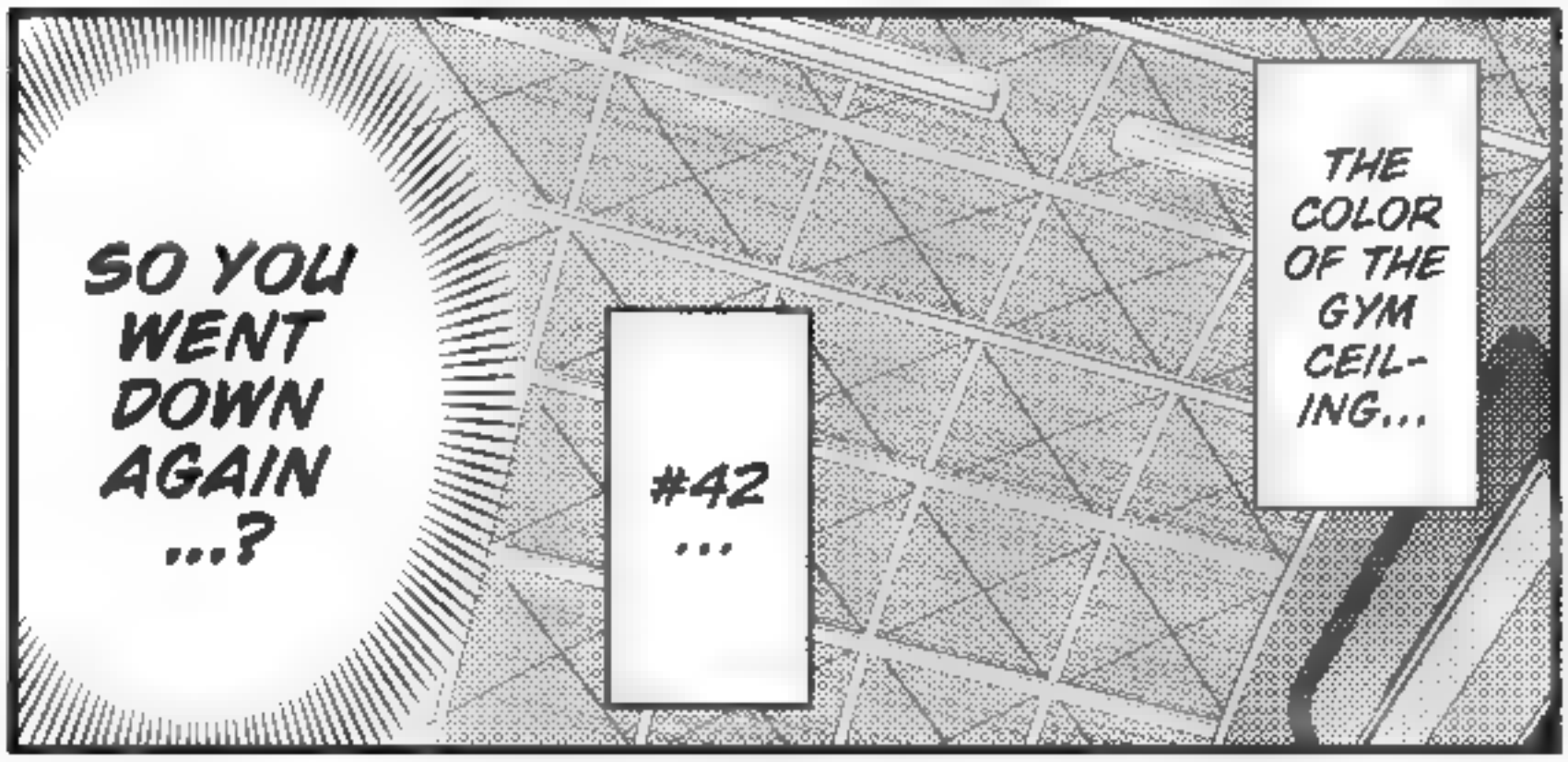
HE'S GONNA KILL HER!!!

THAT I WANT A UTILITY KNIFE.


SOUNDS LIKE IT INTERFERED WITH YOUR PRACTICE. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE TONE THAT MUCH...
FOR SOME REASON, THEY HELD ME DOWN, SO I COULDN'T GO GET MY KNIFE.

RIGHT !?
SUDDENLY, DURING PRACTICE TODAY...
OHH.
THAT HAP- PENS.
OH, NO! I'VE STARTED SEEING STUFF AROUND ME AS TONES LATELY. IT'S PRETTY FUN.

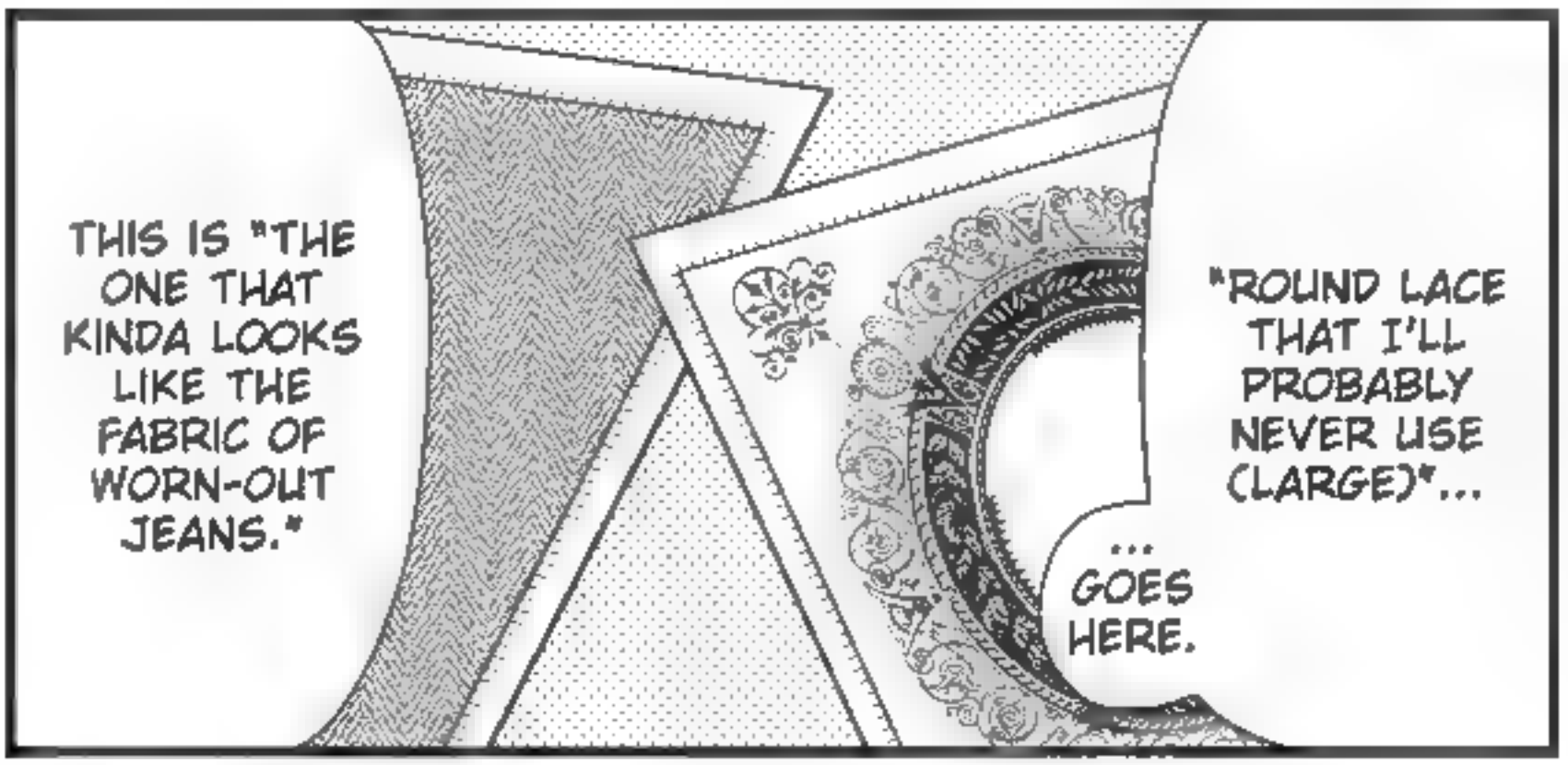

THE COLOR OF THE ONCOMING BALL
#34
THE COLOR OF THE BIBS
#53
THE SOLES OF THE SHOES
#62

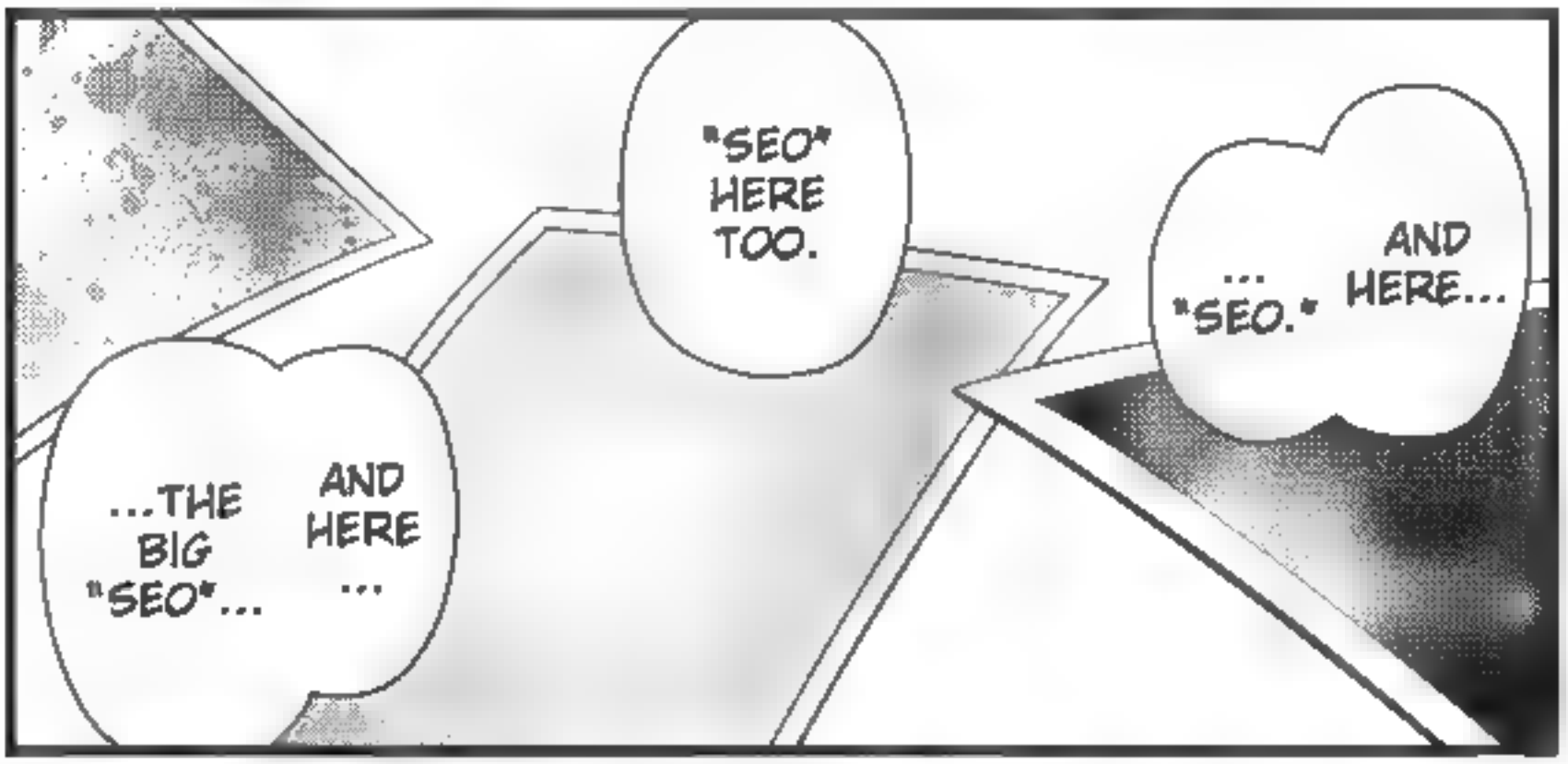

SO YOU WENT DOWN AGAIN ...?
#42 ...
THE COLOR OF THE GYM CEIL- ING...

OKAY !!!
OKAY, YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF TONE AGAIN TODAY.
USE #1220 HERE.
1220
WAKA-MATSU ...
...THIS IS #1221.
SO CLOSE.
OH!
OOPS!!!
OKAY !!!
...IS #1121.
OKAY, THEN THIS ONE...
1121
WAKA-MATSU ...
...YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT SOMETHING'S OFF BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON.
THIS IS SO OBVIOUSLY WRONG...

UNOFFICIAL NAMES

WAKA-MATSU.
USE "LOTS OF PRETTY, PRETTY, CUTE HEARTS" HERE.
THEY TRIED ACTU-ALLY USING THEM.


THIS IS "THE ONE THAT KINDA LOOKS LIKE THE FABRIC OF WORN-OUT JEANS."
"ROUND LACE THAT I'LL PROBABLY NEVER USE (LARGE)"...
... GOES HERE.


...THE BIG "SEO"...
AND HERE ...
"SEO" HERE TOO.
... "SEO."
AND HERE...

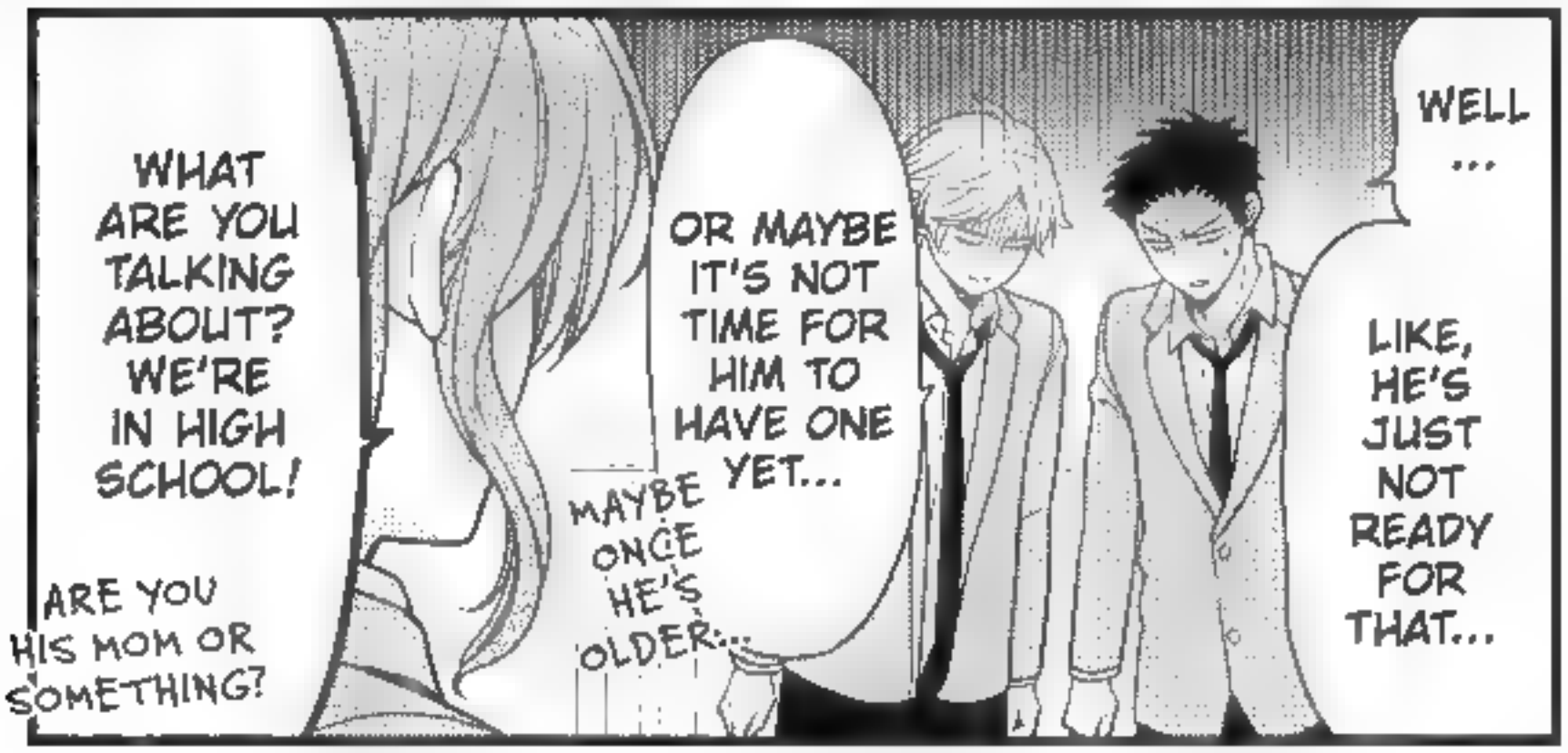
SEO-SENPAI !!!
NAAAAH!
SHE'S PRACTI-CALLY EVERY-WHERE!!!

FOR THIS ONE.
...WE USED YOUR NAME TOO. BY THE WAY...
HUH!?
OHHH...
NAMES FOR THE TONES?

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES NOZAKI-KUN THINK OF ME ...?
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI (BADUM)
THAT MEANS IT'S LIKE ME ...!?

"SAKURA"!!!
OH!
BUCHI (SNAP)

WHY WON'T YOU LET HIM GET ONE?
?
SO WAKA WANTS A KNIFE?


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL!
ARE YOU HIS MOM OR SOMETHING?
MAYBE ONCE HE'S OLDER...
OR MAYBE IT'S NOT TIME FOR HIM TO HAVE ONE YET...
WELL ...
LIKE, HE'S JUST NOT READY FOR THAT...

...BUT YOU WON'T COMPLAIN IF I JUST BUY ONE AND GIVE IT TO HIM, WILL YOU?
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON...

WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE GUYS DOING TO YOU, WAKA?
PLEASE DON'T GIVE HIM ANYTHING WITHOUT OUR PERMIS-SION!!!
THEN WE'RE COMING WITH YOU!!!
BA (JUMP)

THIS ONE LOOKS PRETTY EASY TO CUT WITH, DOESN'T IT?
AND IT'S BIG.
OH!
FOUND IT.
NO WAY!!! ARE YOU TRYING TO TURN WAKAMATSU INTO A CRIMINAL !!?
HUNH !!?
IT'S GOT AN ULTRA-LONG BLADE !!!
THIS SKINNY ONE LOOKS PRETTY COOL.
I GUESS I'LL GO FOR THE DESIGN...
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S GONNA USE IT FOR?
FREAKY!
RIGHT, SEO-SAN !!?
GETTING STABBED WITH THAT ONE SHOULD BE OKAY!
OH!
THAT ONE'S NICE!!! IT'S GOT A SHORT BLADE!!!

HUH ...!?
A BLADE?
HERE.
WAKA.
THIS IS FOR YOU.

...
RIGHT?
YOU'VE WANTED ONE FOR A WHILE...

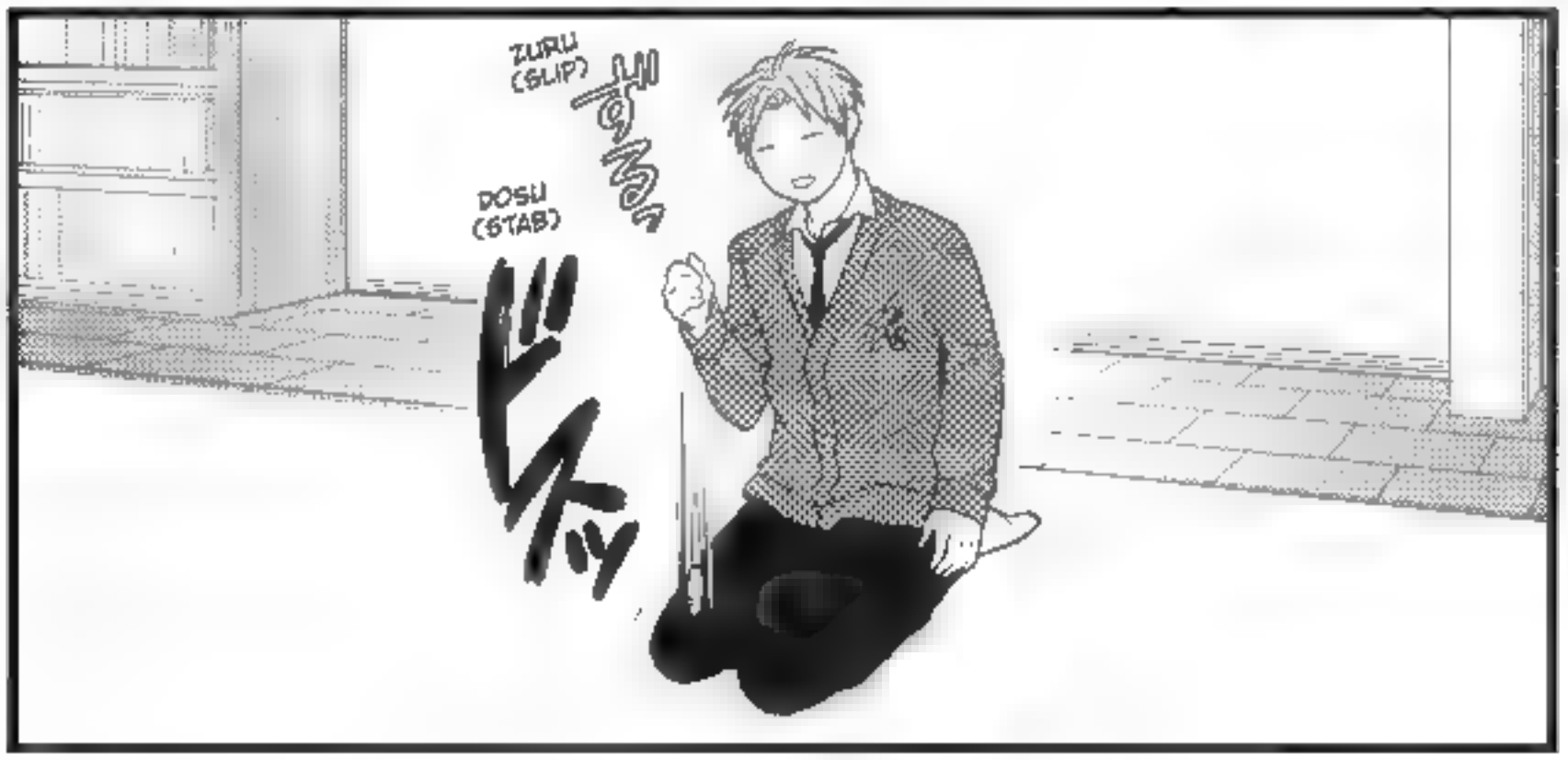
JHIN (MOVED)
...WHAT I WANTED...
SEN-PAI...
I... I...
SHE REMEM-BERED...

NO WAY!
HUH !?
DON'T!!!!
I'm gonna call this pattern "Seo-senpai (rare)" from now on!!!

OH.
A NEW BLADE?

LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND THE PERFECT ONE FOR YOU.
AH.
IT'S SO THIN!!
YES!! IT'S REALLY EASY TO CUT WITH!!!

...I'll treasure it.
Seo-sempai...
YEAH ...


ZURU (SLIP)
DOSU (STAB)

EYEBALLING IT

THE LEFT ONE'S AN F CUP!!!!

THE RIGHT ONE'S AN E CUP!!

THE LEFT ONE'S #1144!!!!

THE RIGHT ONE'S #385!!

!!!
NOZAKI-KUN IN A COS-TUME!!!
SURE.
DOKI (BADUM)
UM...
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I PUT ON A COSTUME TOO?
ONE SIZE FITS ALL!!!
THIS WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT FIT ME!!!
BOO HOO HOO...!
Y-YEAH.
YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SO THAT MUST SUCK...
OF ALL THE POSSIBLE OUTFITS, WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THAT ONE...?
IT'D BE LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW!!?
YOU WANT TO SEE THAT !!?
I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE IN THAT!!!

KENDO

YOU DID IT IN YOUR GYM ELECTIVE, DIDN'T YOU?

LIKE THAT...

OHH!

SENPAI, HOW DO I HOLD THIS?

...RU-DOLPH !!!

PRE-PARE YOUR-SELF ...

NOW!

BA (WHAP)

THAT'S REALLY BEAR-LIKE.

JIRI

JIRI

JIRI

JIRI (INCH)

JIRI

NOZAKI-KUN CHOSE JUDO FOR HIS ELECTIVE, YOU KNOW.

MITSUYA MAENO'S HYPE LESSON!

HEY! HI. IT'S MITSUYA MAENO, THE SKILLED EDITOR. FINALLY, MY FULL NAME IS MADE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME!! SO TODAY, I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN "HYPE," ONE OF THE DUTIES OF AN EDITOR. TO START US OFF, HYPES ARE THE CATCHPHRASE-LIKE LINES THAT ARE WRITTEN ON A STORY'S TITLE PAGE OR LAST PAGE WHEN IT RUNS IN THE MAGAZINE. GENERALLY WE EDITORS COME UP WITH THESE, BUT WE DON'T SAY "I THOUGHT OF THAT!" SO SOME OF THE MANGA-KA DON'T REALIZE IT! I REALLY AM ONE OF THOSE GIANTS BEHIND THE SCENES, YOU KNOW! SO ANYWAY, THIS TIME I'M SHOWING YOU THE HYPES FROM *MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN*!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WAKE UP!

THIS RAN ■ THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE YEAR, SO IT'S ABOUT NEW YEAR'S! I USE A LOT OF SEASONAL MATERIAL MYSELF. ACTUALLY, YUMENO-SENSEI'S BEAN-THROWING STORY WAS MY IDEA TOO!

This title page is the best!☆ You can do it when you try~!♪ [Maeno (editor)]

THAT'S TOTALLY MY LINE! I WONDER IF THIS MANGA'S EDITOR IS A FAN OF MINE! I'LL HAVE TO INVITE THEM OUT DRINKING SOMETIME!

THEIR BOND AND THEIR REINS ARE GETTING STRONGER.

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI KUN

WONDERFUL! IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE SHARING THE SAME CUSHION! I DO THAT A LOT TOO.

IF THIS FEELING ISN'T LOVE, THEN THERE ISN'T ANY LOVE IN THE WORLD AT ALL.

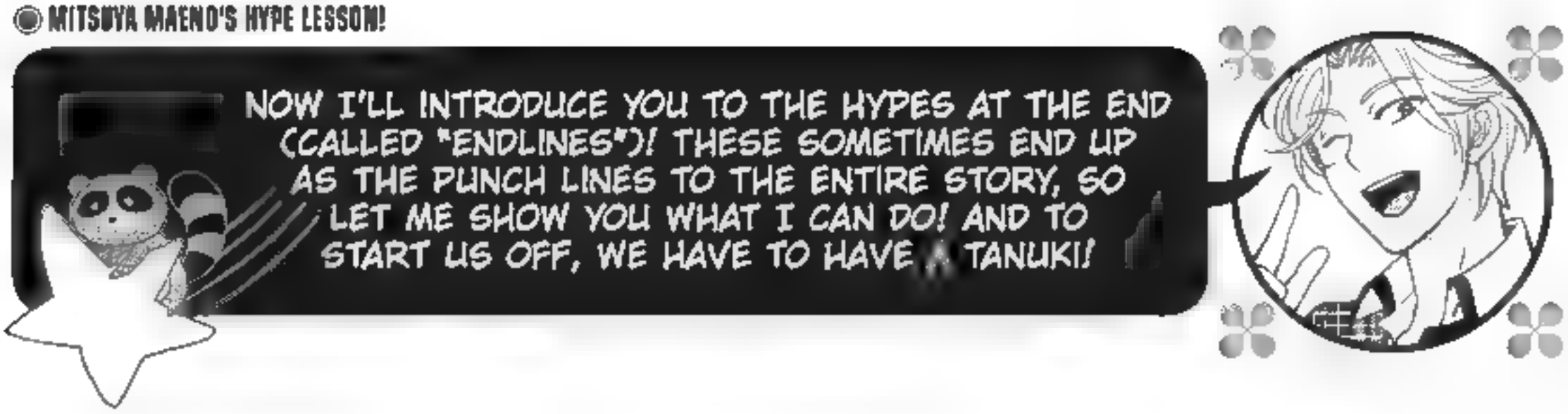
THIS WOULD BE A DRAMATIC ONE, I THINK. I'M REALLY GOOD AT THOSE TOO! THERE ARE GIRLS BURSTING OUT INTO TEARS LEFT AND RIGHT JUST AFTER SEEING THE TITLE PAGE!

I'M REALLY GOOD AT BEING TOYED WITH!!

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI KUN

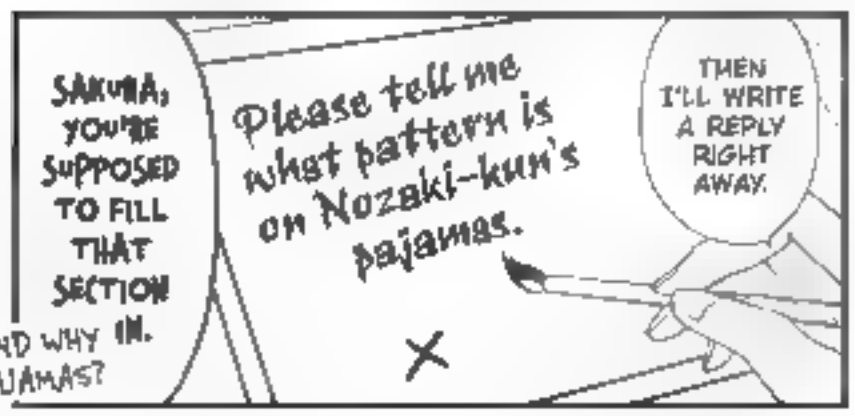
HE'S GOT SUCH A CUTE SENSE OF LANGUAGE, DOESN'T HE? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER IF THIS WAKAMATSU-KUN (RIGHT?) HAD BEEN A GIRL.

◉ MITSUYA MAENO'S HYPE LESSON!



[ISSUE 6]
THE APPEARANCE OF HORI-SENPAI, THE BACKGROUND ARTIST

◆ HER WORRIES GOT ALL COVERED UP FOR NUW.



[ISSUE 2]
RIDING THE BIKE TOGETHER

◆ THERE'S A STRANGE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM, BUT IT GOT SMALLER ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL.

[ISSUE 19]
MIKOSHIBA MODELING FOR THE ART CLUB

◆ THE MOUTH IS THE ROOT OF ALL SHAME...

[ISSUE 4]
THE APPEARANCE OF YUZUKI

◆ THE BEASTLY, DEVILISH ANGEL WITH THE BEAUTIFUL VOICE...

[ISSUE 27]
MIKOSHIBA AND YUZUKI'S FIRST MEETING

◆ FATEFUL ENCOUNTER.

[ISSUE 25]
LORELAI'S TRUE IDENTITY IS...!?

◆ WAKAMATSU'S STRONG POINT → HIS INNOCENCE. HIS WEAK POINT → HE'S TOO INNOCENT.

[ISSUE 30]

CAN WE COME WATCH?
THAT'S RARE!
OHHH!!!
I HAVE TO PRACTICE STARTING TOMORROW.
ONE OF THE ACTORS BROKE A BONE, SO I'M GONNA BE TAKING HIS PLACE.
I WAS ASKED TO STAND IN FOR THE PRINCE.
.....HUH, NO-ZAKI!!?
OKAY!
THEN LET'S GET START-ED!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU—
HUH!!?
STANDING IN FOR ME.
FOR KASHIMA!? WHAT'S SHE DOING!?
WAKU (EXCITED)
わくわく
WAKU
WAKU
NONAKI

YEAH !!!
I GET TO SEE THE PRESIDENT ACTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES!!!
KASHIMA-KUN.
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.

IT'S KINDA MAKING ME HAPPY TOO...
KASHIMA-KUN LOOKS REALLY HAPPY...

TAKE THIS...
...SERI-OUSLY!!!

OKAY.
HERE IT COMES !!!
OKAY, NEXT LET'S START WHERE RUDOLPH, THE PRINCE'S FORMER FRIEND, GOES AFTER HIM!

...THIS LOVE YOU HAVE FOR YOUR LADY!
SHOW ME RIGHT NOW...
STOP RIGHT THERE, PRINCE. YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST ME.

OH, NOT GOOD. HE'LL GET MAD AT ME IF I KEEP GRINNING!!! GOTTA HOLD IT IN!!! GLARE, GLARE!!
WHOOOA! THAT'S SUCH A BAD GUY FACE, SENPAI!

HEY, PRINCE! YOU LOOK LIKE THE BAD GUY!
NAHH (SMIRK)
...RU-DOLPH ...
I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU...

GACHA (RATTLE)
...HAVE AT YOU!!!
NOW, THEN ...
BA (WHAP)
KAN (CLANG)
KAN
KAN
YEAH.
I BET PRACTICING EVERY DAY HAS MADE THE MOVES JUST SINK INTO THEIR BONES.
SHE'S THE PERFECT PRINCE ONCE THEY START ACTING!
WOW ...!!!
WHAT SWORDS-MANSHIP!!!
...BUT I JUST CAN'T DEAL THE FINAL BLOW TO SENPAI ...!!!
HFF!
HFF!
I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO...
..... WHY ...?
...BUT I JUST WANNA GRAB HER LEG AND SEND HER FLYING!!!
HFF!
HFF!
DAMMIT, WHY...? I KNOW WHAT I GOTTA DO...

HUH!?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO FILL THE ROLE?
HORI-CHAN, YOU AND THE PRINCE JUST DON'T WORK TOGETHER!
BUT IT'S JUST NOT THAT EASY...
SOMEONE ELSE!?

ME?
YEAH!!!
?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NOZAKI!?
FOR RUDOLPH!!!
!!!
NOZAKI!!!

HE KNOWS THE STORY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. HE SHOULD BE MORE ATTACHED TO ALL OF THE CHARACTERS THAN ANYONE ELSE...!!!
RUDOLPH, HUH...?
AFTER ALL, HE IS THE ONE WHO WROTE THE PLAY...

?
WAS THERE REALLY A SIDE CHARAC-TER LIKE THIS?

IT'S SO MONO-TONE!!!

BLIN

BLIN (WAVE)

FEEL THE BITE OF MY SWORD!

HEY, YOU!

THEY TRIED IT ANY-WAY.

HE'S SO AWFUL !!!

SUTTEEEN (FLOP)

I'VE BEEN DEFEAT-ED!

DON'T MAKE UP NEW BACK-STORY !!!

WHAT SHALL I SAY TO HER...?

I, RUDOLPH, HAVE A SISTER THAT I LEFT BEHIND IN MY HOMELAND.

UGH ...!

DON'T CREATE SPIN-OFFS!!!

LUCY, THE SISTER, WILL COME TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCE TO AVENGE HER BROTHER!!!

NEXT TIME!

SOMEONE WHO LIKES STANDING OUT AND HAS SOME GUTS...?

DON'T YOU GUYS... KNOW ANYONE?

OH...

YEAH...

WE'D HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HIS SCHEDULE, AFTER ALL...

EVEN IF I DID, IT'D BE HARD TO ASK HIM...

HMM...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-ONE...

...WHO'D JUMP RIGHT IN IF YOU SWEET-TALKED HIM...

...AND KINDA THICK ...

... SOME-ONE WHO'S EASY TO FOOL ...

TIMES LIKE THESE CALL FOR...

SO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE.

!?

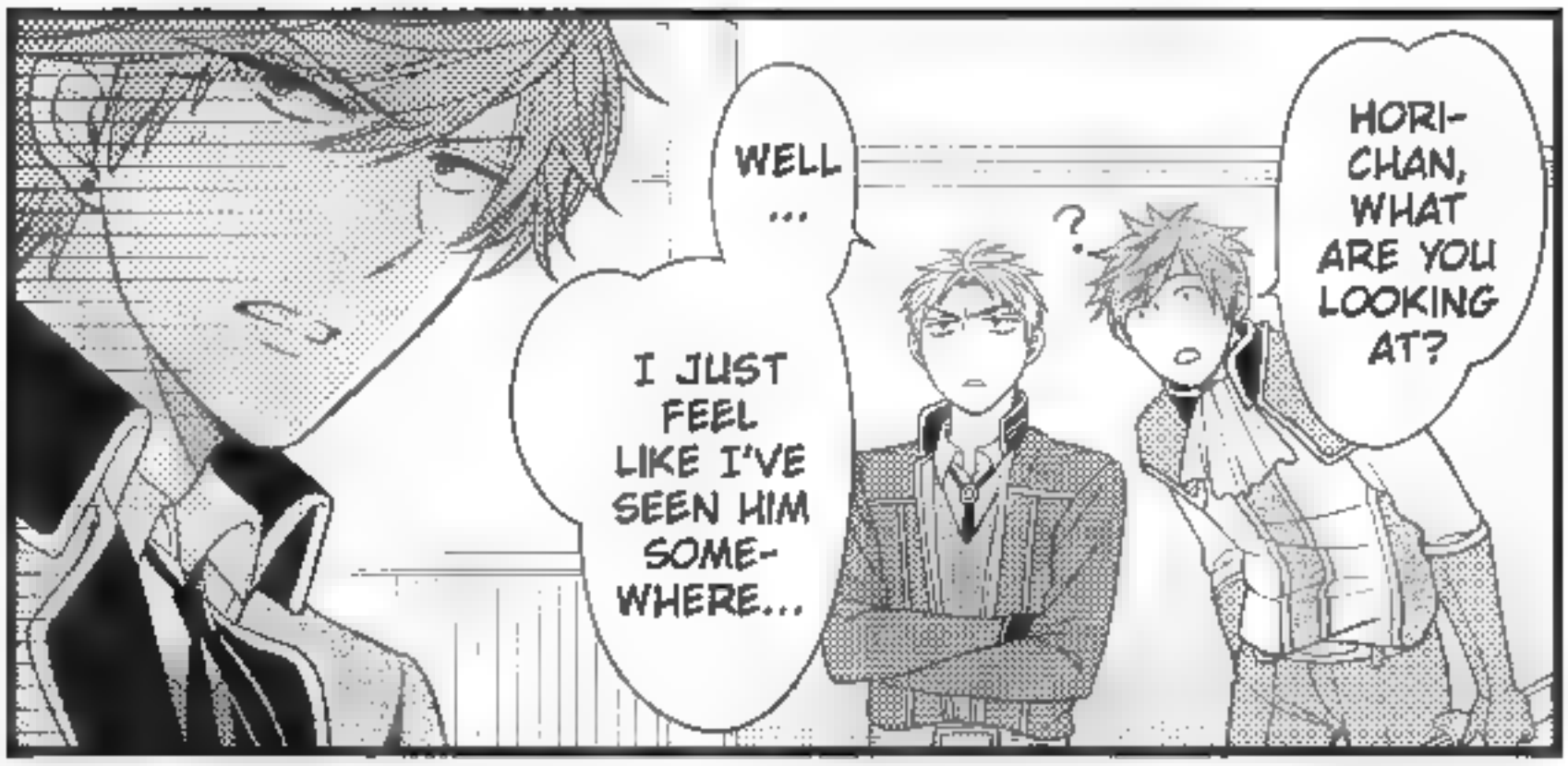
!!?

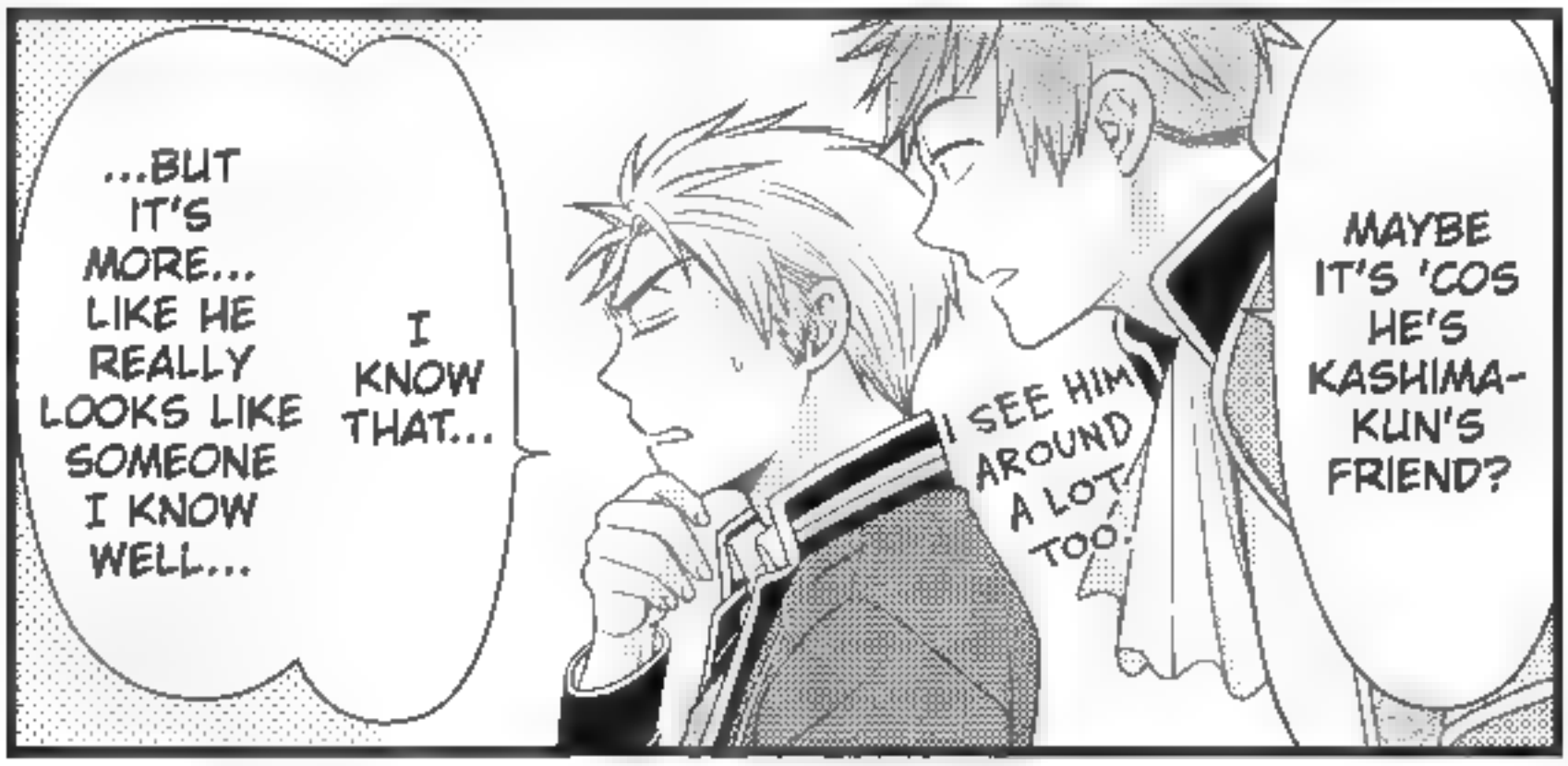
WHAT!?
ME, ACT!?
OF COURSE I CAN'T DO THAT!!!
SCREW YOU!!!

HEH...
CAN I TAKE A PICTURE?
MIKORIN, YOU LOOK GREAT!!
HEY! NOW! STOP IT...
NO WONDER I CONSIDER YOU MY RIVAL!!!

WHO'D FALL FOR SOMETHING THAT OBVIOUS !!!?
ARE YOU ALL DUMB OR SOME-THING!!?
...LIKE I'M GONNA LET YOU ROPE ME INTO THIS!!!
GASHAAAN (CRASH)

WHOA!
LIKE THIS?
MIKORIN, YOU LOOK MUCH COOLER HOLDING IT LIKE THAT!!
CHA (CLINK)
WHOO-HOO!
THAT POSE WOULD EVEN UPSTAGE THE PRINCE, MIKOSHIBA!!


WELL...
I JUST FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOME-WHERE...
?
HORI-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?


...BUT IT'S MORE... LIKE HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW WELL...
I KNOW THAT...
I SEE HIM AROUND A LOT, TOO.
MAYBE IT'S 'COS HE'S KASHIMA-KUN'S FRIEND?

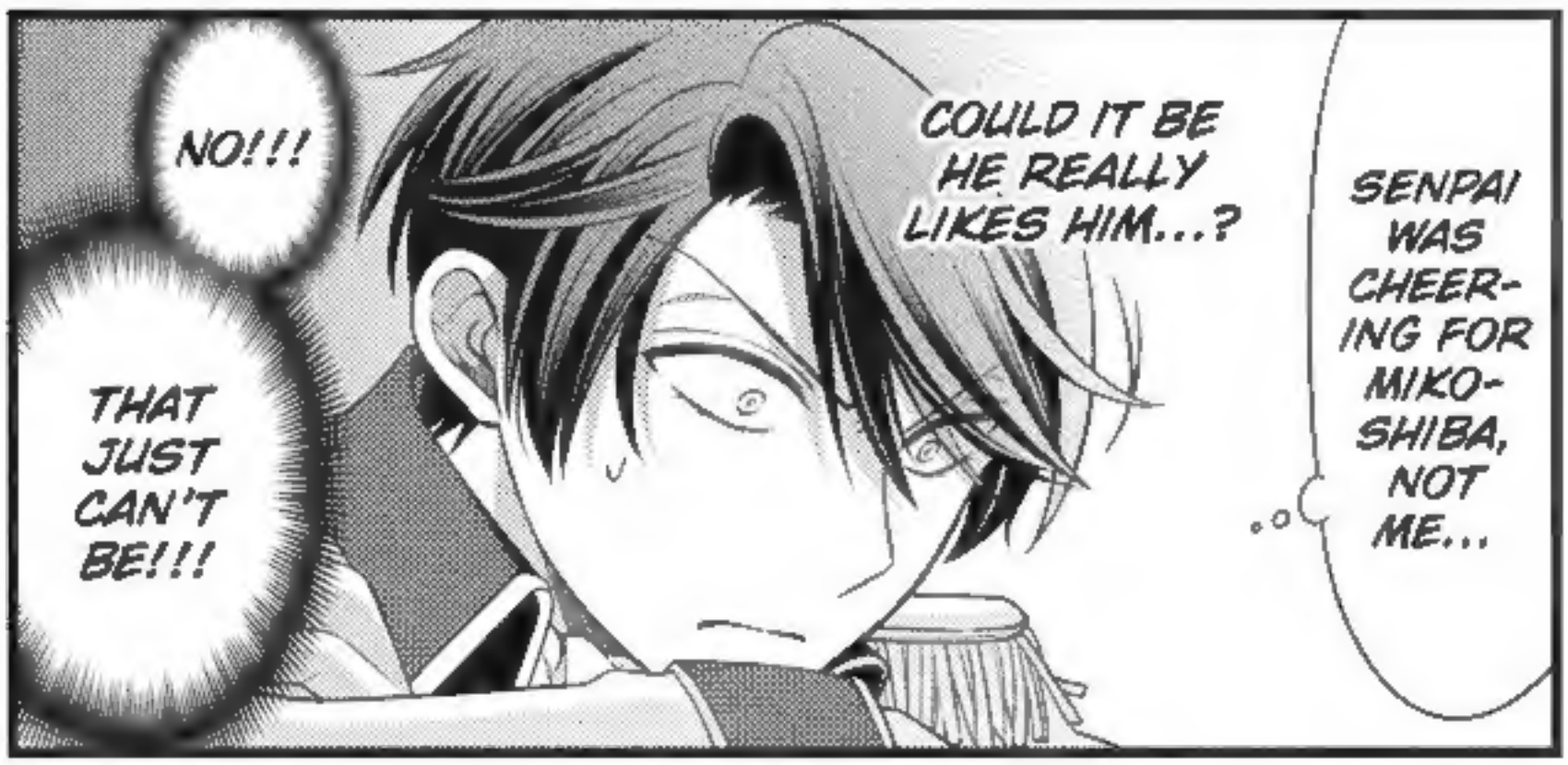
HE...
...GETS DOWN...
...AND WORRIES A LOT...
...AND GETS EMBAR-RASSED REALLY EASILY.
KAAA (BLUSH)
HE'S ODDLY HARD-WORK-ING...

IT'S MAMIKO !!!
AGH!

JUST COULD'NT HELP BUT SAY IT

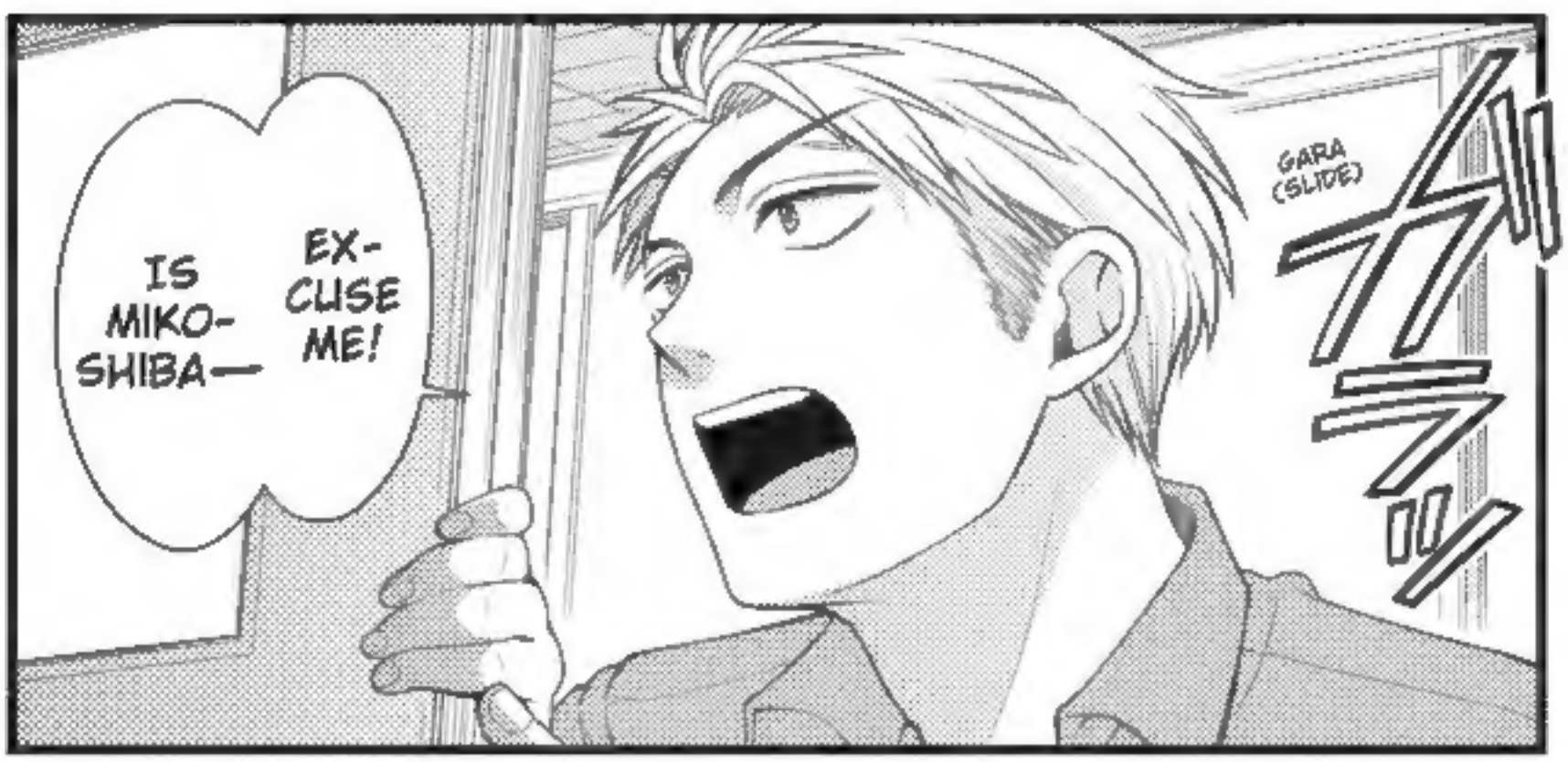
ISN'T IT GREAT WE FOUND SOMEONE GOOD TO HELP OUT!?
THIS ONE TOO!!
WILL YOU PUT THIS ON?
AHH, I WASN'T SURE IT WAS GONNA WORK OUT FOR A WHILE, BUT...

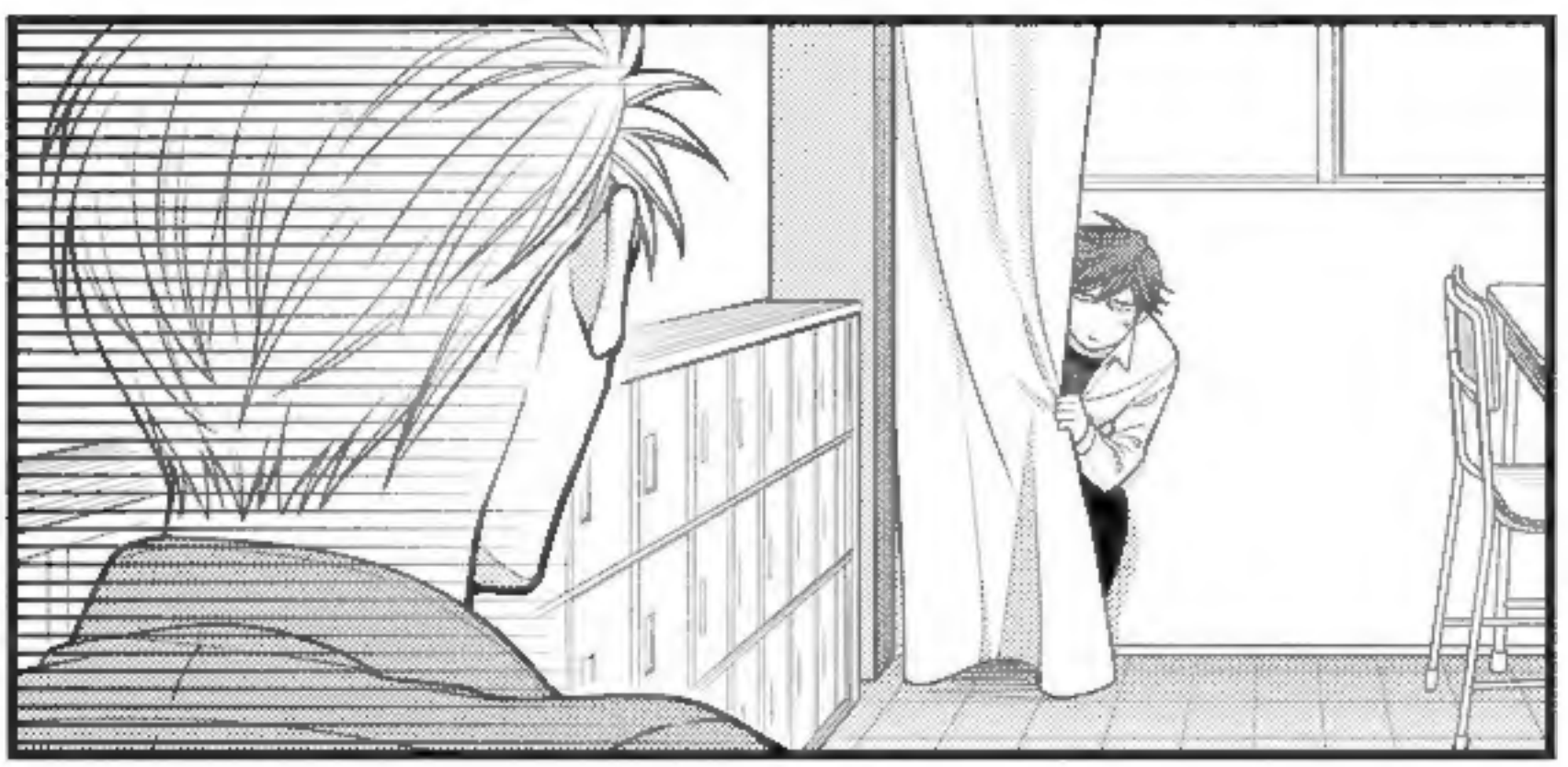
IT'S NOTH-ING...
SO...
...WHAT ARE YOU SULKING ABOUT...
...KA-SHIMA?


NO!!!
THAT JUST CAN'T BE!!!
COULD IT BE HE REALLY LIKES HIM...?
SENPAI WAS CHEER-ING FOR MIKO-SHIBA, NOT ME...

SEE, HE KEEPS MESSING UP HIS NAME.
MAMI... KOSHI-BA!!!
THAT ONE LINE WAS REALLY GREAT.
GOOD JOB!
MAMI... KO-SHIBA!!

OKAY!
CAN I COUNT ON YOU AGAIN TOMOR-ROW?
HE'S REALLY EASY TO TALK TO ONCE HE GETS USED TO YOU.
YEAH.
I GOT HIM TO AGREE TO IT YESTER-DAY.
IS MIKO-SHIBA COMING TO RE-HEARSAL AGAIN TODAY?


IS MIKO-SHIBA—
EX-CUSE ME!
GARA (SLIDE)



KASHIMA! I'M GONNA DO IT AFTER ALL!
TIME FOR PRACTICE!
ONE MORE TIME.
HE WENT BACK TO NORMAL AFTER A DAY PASSED, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO GET HIM USED TO YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN 3

Izumi Tsubaki

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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